[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *May* 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(6957.)

F.O. 424/189

F.O. 424

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6833.]

189

October to December 1896.

[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *May* 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(6957.)

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6833.]

October to December 1896.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Sir P. Currie ..	419 Tel.	Oct. 1, 1896	Massacre at Eghin. Reports	1
2	To Sir N. O'Conor ..	243 Confidential	2,	Disturbances at Constantinople and Anglo-Russian relations. Approves his despatch No. 208	1
3	Consul Stevens ..	28	Sept. 19,	Armenian refugees. Arrival at Batoum ..	1
3*	Sir E. Monson ..	302 Confidential	24,	Proposed Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople on reforms in Turkey. Interview with Count Goluchowski	2
4	Sir P. Currie ..	759	24,	Trial of persons connected with massacres. Transmits *procès verbaux*	3
5	,, ,, ..	760	24,	Armenian exiles from Constantinople. Arrival at Trebizond	4
6	,, ,, ..	761 Confidential	25,	Mahommedan feeling against Sultan. Transmits extracts of private letters from Consuls	4
7	,, ,, ..	762	26,	Turkish Proclamation to inhabitants of Trebizond. Reports on	5
8	,, ,, ..	763	26,	Disembarkation of Armenians at Trebizond. Despatch from Consul Shipley	7
9	,, ,, ..	764	26,	Repatriation of Cæsarean Armenians. Transmits despatch from Angora	7
10	,, ,, ..	765	27,	Province of Adana. Report on state of ..	8
11	,, ,, ..	766	27,	Province of Adana. Further report on state of	9
12	,, ,, ..	767	27,	Kaimakam of Zeitoun and his Moavin. Report from Major Massy	9
13	,, ,, ..	768 Confidential	28,	Armenian Memorial to Sultan. Transmits ..	10
14	,, ,, ..	769	27,	Turkish position with regard to Armenians. Transmits copy of telegram sent by Tewfik Pasha to Turkish Ambassadors	11
15	,, ,, ..	770	28,	Armenian revolutionaries. Further arrests ..	12
16	,, ,, ..	771	28,	Attack on Armenians at Angora. Transmits report by Mr. Richards	13
17	,, ..	772	28,	Massacre at Malatia. Report from Vice-Consul at Kharput	15
18	,, ,, ..	775	29,	Commission at Birejik and Urfa. Mr. Dwight's testimony to Mr. Fitzmaurice's services ..	19
19	,, ,, ..	776	29,	Constantinople massacre. Condition of poorer Armenians. Question of passports ..	20
20	,, ,, ..	777	29,	Constantinople massacre. Transmits Table showing prisoners sentenced or being tried by Special Tribunal	20
21	,, ,, ..	778	30,	State of affairs in Mush. Conversation between Vice-Consul Monahan and Shakir Pasha ..	22
22	,, ,, ..	779 Confidential	30,	Shakir Pasha's Mission. Observations by M. Prjévalsky	23
23	,, ,, ..	780	30,	Looting of villages near Divrigh and Eghin massacre. Report from Sivas	24

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
24	Sir P. Currie ..	783	Sept. 30, 1896	Attack on Armenians at Angora. Further details from Mr. Richards	25
25	,, ,, ..	784	30,	Reforms. Transmits statement drawn up by Armenian Reform Commission as to action taken	26
26	,, ,, ..	785	30,	Vilayet of Van and condition of Nestorians. Transmits Report by Mr. Williams ..	30
27	,, ,, ..	786	Oct. 1,	Question of deposing Sultan. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. Eliot on pamphlet in circulation among Hedjas and Softas ..	32
28	,, ,, ..	788	1,	Sultan and Armenians. His Majesty's present views. Arrest of Apik Effendi ..	33
29	,, ,, ..	789	1,	Armenian Revolutionary Society. Transmits letter addressed to his Excellency ..	34
30	Sir F. Lascelles ..	301 Confidential	1,	Armenian question. Views of Baron von Marschall	35
31	To Sir P. Currie ..	262	5,	Robberies by Bedouins on Mecca road. To remonstrate with Turkish Government on attitude of Vali	35
32	,, ,, ..	283	6,	Affairs in Hedjaz. To thank Mr. Alban for report (in despatch No. 683)	36
33	,, ,, ..	298	7,	Expulsion of Armenians from Silla. Have representations been made to Turkish Government?	36
34	,, ,, ..	299	8,	Mr. Fitzmaurice's services on Commission of Inquiry. Acknowledges No. 18. Appreciation by Her Majesty's Government ..	36
35	Sir P. Currie ..	425 Tel.	9,	Situation in Aintab considered serious ..	36
36	Consul Alvarez ..	90	2,	Expulsion of Armenians from Benghazi ..	37
37	Sir P. Currie ..	790	5,	Robberies on roads in Hedjaz district. Transmits report from Jeddah	37
38	,, ,, ..	791	5,	Ex-Patriarch Ismirlian. Arrived at Jerusalem	39
39	,, ,, ..	795	5,	Aleppo. Speech by Vali, warning people against disturbances. Insecurity among Christians	39
40	,, ,, ..	798	6,	Nestorians. Report from Bagdad. Is making representations to Porte	40
41	,, ,, ..	799	6,	Emigration of Armenians from Anatolia to Cyprus. Transmits despatch from Smyrna	41
42	,, ,, ..	800	6,	Speech by officer attacking Sultan, made in theatre at Damascus. Account by Consul Eyres	42
43	,, ,, ..	802	6,	Attitude of Turkish Government towards Armenian revolutionists. Circular from Tewfik Pasha to Turkish Representatives. Armenian reforms resolved on, and Porte hope various Governments will expel all Armenian agitators	43
44	,, ,, ..	805	7,	State of Hauran. Reports from Damascus. Turks hushing question up	44
45	,, ,, ..	806	7,	Proclamation by Vali of Sivas. Despatch from Vice-Consul reporting probability of disturbances read to Grand Vizier	45

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
46	Sir P. Currie ..	807	Oct. 7, 1896	Emigration of Armenians from Trebizond to Batoum. Transmits report by Mr. Shipley	46
47	To Sir P. Currie ..	303	14,	Attacks on Sultan in England. Interview with Turkish Ambassador	48
48	Sir P. Currie ..	428 Tel.	15,	Robberies in Hedjaz. Refers to No. 37. Further complaints	48
49	Mr. Elliot	22 Tel.	16,	Armenian Secret Societies. Repeats telegram from Varna. They intend to provoke another massacre if grievances are not redressed ..	49
50	Memorandum by British Resident in Constantinople (communicated by Sir J. Mowbray)	..	5,	Causes and results of massacre at Constantinople	49
51	Sir P. Currie ..	812	9,	Eghin massacre. Transmits letter communicated by Mr. Whittall. Kaimakam decorated	51
52	" " ..	813	9,	Constantinople massacres. Inquiry by Commission of Military Inspection. Action of foreign officers in Turkish service. Transmits abstract of Imperial Iradé	52
53	" " ..	814	9,	Losses of foreign subjects during massacres. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. Thompson on Military Commission, including General Blunt and Admiral Woods .. .	54
54	" " ..	815	10,	Arrival of Armenian refugees at Erzeroum. Consul Graves reports, and suggests grant of 100*l.* for their relief	55
55	" " ..	818	10,	Search of Armenian house at Angora. Report from Mr. Richards	56
56	" " ..	819	10,	Panic at Kharput. Transmits report by British Vice-Consul on action taken by him ..	57
57	" " ..	820	10,	Demands of Druses. Refers to No. 44. Transmits despatch from Consul Eyres	59
58	" " ..	821	10,	Eghin massacre. Transmits despatch from Consul at Erzeroum giving Vali's account ..	59
59	" " ..	822	10,	Raid by Kurds on Armenian village of Bournaz	60
60	" " ..	823	10,	Removal of political prisoners from Erzinghian to Erzeroum	61
61	" " ..	824	10,	Armenian revolutionists. Arrest of Turks at Denek Ma'aden in correspondence with ..	61
62	" " ..	827	12,	Emigration of Armenians. Transmits article from "Ikdam" and Imperial Iradé, with regard to	62
63	" " ..	828	12,	Vilayets of Adana and Aleppo. Report from Vice-Consul Massy	63
64	" " ..	829	12,	Arrest of seditious Armenians at Yuzgat. Transmits report from Acting Consul Richards. Alleged tortures	64
65	" " ..	830	12,	Fékê district of Kozan. Report from Vice-Consul Massy	65
66	" " ..	831	12,	Kurdish raids in the Dirrigh district. Despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas	65
67	" " ..	832	12,	Diarbekir. Vice-Consul reports improvement in affairs of	66

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
68	Sir P. Currie ..	833	Oct. 13, 1896	Massacre at Eghin. Transmits report from Vice-Consul at Kharput giving details ..	67
69	" " ..	835	14,	Armenian revolutionaries. Transmits note from Porte asking permission to search ships	69
70	" " ..	836	14,	Trials at Constantinople. Transmits table of sentences and Memorandum by Mr. Devey and Mr. Stavrides on judicial proceedings ..	70
71	" " ..	837	14,	State of affairs at Marash. Transmits report from Mr. Catoni	74
72	" " ..	838	14,	Secret circulars by Porte respecting Armenian disturbances. Reports from Mr. Fitzmaurice on pernicious effects of	75
73	" " ..	839	14,	Imperial Commission at Urfa. Transmits report by Mr. Fitzmaurice. Danger to Christian population. He proposes appointment of Consular officer	76
74	" " ..	840	14,	Birejik Armenians. Report by Mr. Fitzmaurice on condition of	79
75	" " ..	841	14,	Armenian reforms. Action of Russian Embassy. Transmits draft of Iradé with Memorandum by Mr. Block	80
76	" " ..	845 Secret	15,	Arrest of alleged British subject (by name Cathogène or Gullabian), his examination by Mr. Thompson. Movements of Hintchags and Trochaks	82
77	Board of Trade ..	..	19,	Murder of Armenian stevedore on board British steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens." Transmits entry in log and statements respecting case ..	84
78	" " ..	430 Tel.	20,	Forced loan to be raised from Mussulmans for defence of Islam. Reports Iradé ..	87
79	" " ..	431 Tel.	20,	Shakir Pasha starting for Sairt. Question of taxes	87
80	To Sir N. O'Conor (also to Mr. Howard, Sir F. Lascelles, Sir E. Monson, and Sir Clare Ford	260 Confidential	20,	Policy of Europe towards the Turkish Empire. Suggests Ambassadors should consider changes to be made in the government ..	88
81	To Sir P. Currie ..	311 Confidential	20,	Transmits copy of above	91
82	Mr. Howard ..	313	21,	Reforms in Turkey. Copy of No. 80 handed to M. Hanotaux	91
83	Sir E. Monson ..	101 Tel.	23,	Reforms in Turkey. Austrian Government agree with Her Majesty's Government ..	92
84	To Sir P. Currie ..	320	24,	Search of foreign ships for Armenians. Approves of No. 69	92
85	Sir P. Currie ..	847	16,	Arrest of alleged Armenian revolutionaries. Report from Erzeroum	92
86	" " ..	848	16,	Military movements on Russian frontier. Report from Erzeroum	93
87	" " ..	849	16,	Expulsion of Armenians from Van. Report from Van	95
88	" " ..	850	11,	Affairs in Hedjaz. Report from Jeddah ..	95
89	" " ..	851	16,	Nestorians. Minister for Foreign Affairs promises inquiry	96

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
90	Sir P. Currie ..	852	Oct. 20, 1896	Departure of conscripts for Constantinople. Report from Angora	97
91	" " ..	855	20,	Turkish attack on Armenians at Angora. Report from Acting Consul Richards ..	97
92	" " ..	856	20,	Departure of recruits for Hauran	98
93	Mr. Elliot	190 Confidential	21,	Armenian massacre and Revolutionary Societies. Extends telegram (see No. 49)	98
94	Sir F. Lascelles ..	318 Confidential	23,	Proposals for deliberations as to reforms in Turkey. Refers to No. 80. Copy given to Baron von Marschall..	99
95	Sir Clare Ford ..	72 Tel. Confidential	26,	Reforms in Turkey. Refers to No. 80. Italian Government prepared to support Her Majesty's Government	99
96	Sir P. Currie ..	857	20,	Massacre at Eghin. Transmits letter to his Excellency from Kharput	100
97	" " ..	858	20,	Naoum Pasha's tour through Lebanon. Report from Mr. Drummond Hay ..	101
98	" " ..	434 Tel.	27,	Forced loan for defence of Islam. Refers to No. 78. Explanation given by Porte ..	101
99	" " ..	439 Tel.	30,	Reforms at Van. Arrest of officials called for by Consul and Vali	102
100	To Sir P. Currie ..	327	30,	Fékè district (see No. 65). To draw attention of Porte and point out risk of disorder if Kaïmakam is continued in office	102
101	Sir P. Currie ..	860	21,	Outbreak in Hauran. Despatch from Damascus	102
102	" " ..	861	22,	Events at Mosul. Despatch from Mr. Rassam	103
103	" " ..	862	22,	Overcrowding in prisons in Constantinople. Refusal of Grand Vizier to allow Commission of Board of Health to visit	104
104	" " ..	864	25,	Zia Pasha transferred from Diarbekir to Erzeroum. Replaced by Yahya Pasha ..	105
105	" " ..	865	25,	Bulgarian emigrants at Smyrna being encouraged to move into Armenian provinces .	105
106	" " ..	870	25,	Recall of Saadeddin Pasha and Djemal Bey from Van and Erzeroum. Report from Erzeroum as to	106
107	" " ..	871	25,	Restriction on emigration of Armenians. Report from Erzeroum	106
108	Sir E. Monson ..	323	24,	Reforms in Turkey. Refers to No. 80. Interview with Count Goluchowski. His approval of proposal and defence of Austrian policy ..	107
109	Sir P. Currie ..	872	27,	Visit of Shakir Pasha to Kharput. His Interview with Mr. Fontana. Treatment of Protestant Armenians at Megre. Memorandum presented to Shakir Pasha by Mr. Fontana..	108
110	" " ..	873 Confidential	27,	Armenian Revolutionary Committee. Report from Italian Consul-General at Geneva to Italian Government	111
111	" " ..	874	27	Armenian reforms. Stated by Sultan to be complete. Appointment of Christian Mouavins	112
112	" " ..	875	27,	State of Hedjaz. Treatment of Indian Pilgrims. *Note verbale* addressed to Porte. Further report from Jeddah. Deposition of Haji Mohammed Shah	112

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
113	Sir P. Currie ..	876	Oct. 27, 1896	Report on Vilayet of Kharput. Transmits from Mr. Fontana, inclosing Memorandum by Mr. Barnum	115
114	" " ..	877	27,	Armenian prisoners transferred to Erzeroum from Erzinghian and Baiburt. Despatches from Consul Graves with Petition from Baiburt prisoners	117
115	" " ..	880	28,	Armenian prisoners at Trebizond. Despatch from Mr. Shipley, inclosing Petition. Statement of details of cases by Mr. Vivian ..	120
116	" " ..	882 Confidential	28,	Forced loan for defence of Islam. Message from Ambassadors to Porte. Tewfik Pasha's reply	123
117	" " ..	884	28,	Turkish press on Armenians. Transmits extract from "Ikdam."	124
118	" " ..	886	28,	Trial of Apik Effendi Oundjian. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. Stavrides	125
119	" " ..	887	29,	State of country between Mush and Bitlis. Report by Vice-Consul Monahan with letter to Mr. Whittall	126
120	Mr. Milbanke ..	332 Confidential	29,	Reforms in Turkey. Count Goluchowski's views. Financial question	128
121	Sir F. Lascelles ..	322 Confidential	29,	Reforms. Satisfaction of German Government at British proposal expressed to Count Lanza	129
122	Mr. Milbanke ..	337 Confidential	31,	Forced loan in Turkey. Conversation with Count Goluchowski. King of Roumania hears that further massacres are being planned	129
123	Mr. Gosselin ..	33 Tel.	Nov. 3,	Reforms. Russia will join if all Ambassadors at Constantinople agree, but is averse to coercion	130
124	Mr. Goschen ..	60 Tel.	4,	Reforms. Unsatisfactory answer of M. Chichkine	130
125	Mr. Milbanke ..	105 Tel.	4,	Reforms. Finance alone will probably be taken in hand by France and Russia	130
126	Mr. Gosselin ..	333	4,	Debate on Armenia in French Chamber. Account of	131
127	" " ..	34 Tel.	4,	Debate on Armenia in French Chamber. M. Hanotaux calls attention to his speech ..	132
128	Sir P. Currie ..	443 Tel.	6,	Movements of Austrian and Russian Ambassadors	132
129	Mr. Milbanke ..	106 Tel. Confidential	6,	Reforms. Count Goluchowski would not press proposals on Porte unless Powers decide to insist on execution. Views as to finance ..	133
130	Consul-General Blunt	47	2,	Armenians shipped on "Ayrshire." Action of Turkish authorities	133
131	Mr. Gosselin ..	334 Confidential	5,	Speech by M. Hanotaux. Conversation with him	134
132	Sir P. Currie ..	445 Tel.	8,	Massacre at Everek, near Cæsarea	135
133	Mr. Goschen ..	247 Confidential	Oct. 27,	European policy in Turkey. Answers No. 80. Observations of M. Chichkine	135
134	" " ..	248 Confidential	Nov. 4,	European policy in Turkey. Interview with M. Chichkine respecting policy of Her Majesty's Government. His objections to coercion of Sultan	135

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
135	Sir P. Currie ..	895	Nov. 2, 1896	Eskishehr-Koniah Railway. Transmits report by Acting Consul Richards. Trade of district	137
136	" " ..	896	2,	Vilayet of Van and Shakir Pasha's visit. Report by Major Williams	142
137	" " ..	897	2,	Release of Armenian prisoners in Adana and Aleppo provinces	143
138	" " ..	910	4,	Distribution of relief in Koran district. Report from Vice-Consul Massy	143
139	" " ..	912	4,	Oppression of Armenians in Adana Vilayet. Transmits despatch from Vice-Consul Massy	144
140	Sir F. Lascelles ..	334 Confidential	3,	Reforms in Turkey. Conversation with Chancellor as to attitude of Russia	145
141	" " ..	343 Confidential	7,	Reforms in Turkey. Conversation with Baron von Marschall. Financial question ..	145
142	Mr. Milbanke ..	340 Confidential	5,	Reforms in Turkey. Interview with Under-Secretary, who thinks question of finance will alone be undertaken seriously ..	146
143	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	..	7,	Armenian anarchists and agitators. Ask assistance in watching arrivals by steamers and expulsion of agitators from England ..	146
144	Mr. Gosselin ..	338	8,	Turkish reforms. Extract from "Matin" respecting those said to have been agreed to by Sultan	147
145	Sir P. Currie ..	446 Tel.	9,	Poll tax levied on Mussulmans. General uneasiness respecting	148
146	Nil.				
147	Sir N. O'Conor ..	62 Tel.	11,	Reforms. M. Chichkine deprecates coercion ..	149
148	Sir P. Currie ..	448 Tel.	11,	Stationnaires. "Imogene" should not be sent away	149
149	" " ..	449 Tel.	11,	Poll tax. Refers to No. 145. It is obligatory on Mussulmans	149
150	" " ..	450 Tel.	11,	Armenian prisoners at Sairt. Twenty released by Shakir Pasha	149
151	Mr. Gosselin ..	37 Tel.	12,	Reforms. Views of French Minister for Foreign Affairs, who thinks financial pressure should be brought to bear	150
152	Sir P. Currie ..	452	12,	Armenian Patriarchate. Election fixed for 16th. Councils elected	150
153	To Sir N. O'Conor ..	156 Tel.	12,	Reforms. Disappointment that Russia rejects coercion	150
154	Mr. Gosselin ..	344 Very Conf.	11,	Reforms. Conversation with M. Hanotaux. Effect on Sultan of debate in Chamber. Future course to be pursued. Question of financial pressure	151
155	Sir P. Currie .	454 Tel. Confidential	13,	Financial reforms. Suggestions of M. Berger	153
156	To Sir P. Currie ..	215 Tel.	14,	Reforms. M. Hanotaux desires support of Her Majesty's Ambassador, for efforts of French Ambassador	153
157	Sir P. Currie ..	347	14,	State of Hedjaz. Approves of No. 112 ..	154

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
158	To Mr. Gosselin ..	465	Nov. 14, 1896	Reforms. Interview with French Minister. Efforts of M. Cambon. Support of Sir P. Currie desired	154
159	Sir P. Currie ..	457 Tel.	15,	Reforms. Answers No. 156. Will support M. Cambon	154
160	Nil.				
161	Sir P. Currie ..	462 Tel.	15,	Ennis Pasha. Dismissed from post of Vali of Diarbekir, and named Commissioner for organizing taxation of Amatolia	155
162	Mr. Milbanke ..	107 Tel.	15,	Financial reforms. Russian Minister of Finance opposed to French proposals	155
163	Sir F. Lascelles ..	345 Confidential	13,	Financial reforms. Views of Baron von Marschall	155
164	Mr. Gosselin ..	350 Confidential	13,	Attitude of Her Majesty's Government to Turkey. Lord Salisbury's speech. M. Hanotaux' comments	155
165	Sir P. Currie ..	463 Tel.	16,	Reforms. Instructions given to Turkish authorities read to Mr. Block by Izzet Bay	156
166	" " ..	464 Tel.	16,	Reforms. Promises of Sultan to French Ambassador	156
167	Sir N. O'Conor ..	63 Tel. Confidential	16,	Financial reforms. Objections of M. de Witte to Franco-Russian Public Debt proposal ..	157
168	Mr. Gosselin ..	38 Tel.	17,	Turkish loan. Russian Government wish to be sole guarantor of any new loan	157
169	Sir P. Currie ..	465 Tel.	18,	Kharput. Vali wishes to nominate eighty-two tax collectors instead of zaptiehs	157
170	Sir P. Currie ..	466A Tel.	18,	Bitlis. Arrangements for election of Mudir and for Christian police and gendarmerie ..	157
171	Mr. Gosselin ..	39 Tel.	18,	Reforms. Thanks of French Government for support given to M. Cambon by Sir P. Currie; M. Hanotaux less sanguine	157
172	Sir N. O'Conor ..	64 Tel.	18,	Reforms. Refers to No. 80. Emperor not willing to agree to use coercion against Sultan ..	158
173	" " ..	65 Tel.	18,	Financial reforms. Refers to No. 167. Russia cannot accept French proposal	158
174	Mr. Milbanke ..	108 Tel. Most Conf.	18,	Financial reforms. Objections of Count Goluchowski to French proposal. He thinks Russia would oppose any amelioration ..	158
175	Sir P. Currie ..	904	2,	State of insecurity in Dersim. Report from Vice-Consul at Kharput	159
176	" " ..	907	2,	Consul-General Drummond Hay's tour in Lebanon. Transmits report of. Feeling among Maronites towards England	159
177	" " ..	908	2,	Conversion of Armenian Protestants to Islam. Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora	162
178	" " ..	909	4,	Governorship of Hadjin. Despatch from Vice-Consul at Adana respecting choice for ..	163
179	" " ..	913	5,	Armenian revolutionary demonstrations. Further outbreaks declared impossible. Projected reforms in police force	164

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
180	Sir P. Currie ..	914	Nov. 5, 1896	Forced loan levied on Mahommedans. Issue of Iradé	164
181	,, ,, ..	915	5,	Collection of taxes from Armenians. Abuses continue. Representations to Grand Vizier	165
182	,, ,, ..	916	7,	State of Vilayet of Bitlis. Report from Vice-Consul Monahan. His Excellency will make representations as to imprisonment of Bishop of Bitlis	165
183	,, ,, ..	917	7,	Anti-English feeling among Moslems in interior of Asia Minor. Despatch from Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice	167
184	,, ,, ..	921 Confidential	7,	State of affairs at Cæsarea. Report from Acting Consul Richards. Misrepresentations of German travellers	169
185	,, ,, ..	923	8,	Egbin massacre. Telegram from Vice-Consul at Kharput	170
186	,, ,, ..	925	8,	Constantinople disturbances. Proceedings of Tribunal. Transmits table of sentences. Inadequacy of those on Moslems	170
187	,, ,, ..	926	9,	Conditions of Armenians in Koaan and inefficiency of Vali of Adana. Refers to No. 100. Is pressing matters on Porte	175
188	,, ,, ..	928	11,	Proceedings of Special Court at Constantinople. Memorandum by Mr. Devey	175
189	,, ,, ..	930 Confidential	11,	Sultan and Powers. Interviews with Ambassadors	176
190	,, ,, ..	932	11,	Settlement of Nogai Tartars in Angora district. Report from Acting Consul Richards ..	177
191	,, ,, ..	933	11,	Reforms. Impossibility of carrying out at Van. Report from Major Williams. Possibilities of improving trade in Anatolia	177
192	,, ,, ..	935	11,	Reform prospects. Report from Vice-Consul at Diarbekir	179
193	,, ,, ..	936	11,	Everek massacre. Report from Acting Consul at Angora	180
194	,, ,, ..	937	11,	Forced conversions in Van district. Report from Major Williams	181
195	,, ,, ..	938	11,	Report on outbreak in Hauran, and proceedings of Abdullah Pasha. Report from Consul Eyres	182
196	,, ,, ..	939	11,	Administration of Diarbekir. Emin Pasha replaced by Khalid Bey	183
197	,, ,, ..	940	11,	Armenians expelled from Constantinople. Arrival at Kharput	183
198	Mr. Milbanke ..	345 Very Conf.	7,	Reforms. Interview with Count Goluchowski. His Excellency in favour of threatening Turkey with coercion	184
199	,, ,, ..	351 Very Conf.	12,	Reforms. Views of M. de Kallay. His Excellency has no hopes from concert ..	188
200	,, ,, ..	355	13,	Reforms. Interview with Count Goluchowski. Impression made by Lord Salisbury's speech at the Guildhall	185
201	,, ,, ..	362 Confidential	15,	Financial reforms. Russian objections to French proposal	186

No.	Name.	No.	Date	Subject.	Page
202	Sir P. Currie ..	468 Tel.	Nov. 19, 1896	Constantinople disturbances. Extraordinary Tribunal dissolved. Sentence of death on Bishop of Hasskeni. Decisions to be revised by Court of Cassation	186
203	,, ,, ..	470 Tel.	19,	Armenian Patriarchate. Mgr. Ormanian elected. Revision of Armenian Constitution accepted by National Assembly	186
204	,, ,, ..	472 Tel.	20,	Constantinople disturbances. Statistics of trials. Sentence on Bishop of Hasskeni cancelled ..	187
205	Mr. Milbanke ..	109 Tel.	20,	Reforms. Refers to No. 172. Count Goluchowski thinks Powers must be prepared to coerce Sultan	187
206	Mr. Gosselin ..	357 Confidential	19,	Reforms. Thanks of French Government for Sir P. Currie's support to M. Cambon. M. Hanotaux' satisfaction at liberation of Armenian prisoners. Prospects of financial reform	187
207	Sir P. Currie ..	474 Tel.	21,	Armenian prisoners in provinces. Details as to	188
208	Sir N. O'Conor ..	252	19,	Affairs at Constantinople. M. de Nélidow's visit and Comte de Montebello's return ..	188
209	,, ,, ..	253 Confidential	12,	Reforms. Refers to No. 80. Interview with M. Chichkine respecting proposals of Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency's views as to British policy towards Russia ..	188
210	,, ,, ..	260	18,	Reforms. Refers to No. 153. Emperor of Russia objects to use coercion against Sultan	190
211	,, ,, ..	261	18,	Reforms. Opposition of M. de Witte. Views of M. Nélidow who believes convulsion throughout Ottoman Empire imminent	190
212	,, ,, ..	263	19,	Financial reforms. Inspired article in "St. Petersburgh Gazette" on French proposal for appointment of Russian Representative on Council of Ottoman Debt	191
213	Sir F. Lascelles ..	355 Confidential	20,	Financial reforms. Conversation with Baron von Marschall	191
214	Sir P. Currie ..	475 Tel.	23,	Sentences of Extraordinary Tribunal. Bishop of Hasskeni and Bitlis	193
215	,, ,, ..	67 Tel.	24,	Financial reforms. Objections of Emperor to French proposal	193
216	,, ,, ..	476 Tel.	24,	Kurdish raid on Turkish villages near Kharput. Reports	193
217	,, ,, ..	942 Confidential	13,	Proposed migration of El Hanadi tribe to Syria. Despatch from Consul Eyres	194
218	,, ,, ..	943	13,	Non-execution of reforms at Erzeroum. Report from Consul Graves	194
219	,, ,, ..	944	13,	Attack on Armenians at Angora. Refers to No. 91. Reports from Mr. Richards on trial of culprits	195
220	,, ,, ..	945	13,	Affairs at Bitlis. Departure of Shakir Pasha. Prospect of reforms and financial difficulties of Government. Statement of taxes and arrears of taxes	196
221	,, ,, ..	947	17,	Sultan's promises to French Ambassador. List given by M. de Cambon, and Memorandum on those made to Her Majesty's Embassy ..	200

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
222	Sir P. Currie ..	948	Nov. 17, 1896	Appointment of Christian assistants to Kaimakam. Notified in official Gazette	203
223	" " ..	952	17,	Arrest of Armenians at Angora. Report from Acting Consul Richards	203
224	" " ..	953	17,	Murder of Armenian priest by revolutionists at Van. Report from Major Williams ..	204
225	" " ..	954	17,	Attitude of Mahommedans in Trebizond. Despatch from Consul Longworth, commenting on improvement in	205
226	" " ..	955	17,	Armenian prisoners at Erzeroum. Release of. Arrival of Judicial Inspectors	205
227	" " ..	956	17,	Massacre at Erverek. Report by Acting Consul Richards	206
228	" " ..	957	17,	Levy of poll tax on Moslems. Report from Acting Consul at Jerusalem	207
229	" " ..	958	17,	Reforms at Bitlis. Report from Vice-Consul Monahan. Proposed representations to Porte respecting seizure of relief money for tithes	207
230	" " ..	960	18,	Reforms. List of those promulgated November 11. Mostly unimportant	208
231	Mr. Gosselin ..	41 Tel.	25,	Reforms. M. Hanotaux has given up idea of financial pressure	209
232	Sir N. O'Conor ..	68 Tel.	25,	Reforms. In certain eventualities Emperor would entertain idea of coercion	209
233	To Sir N. O'Conor ..	302	25,	Reforms. Interview with Russian Ambassador. Views of Emperor as to course to be taken, and as to possibility of bringing pressure to bear on Turkey	210
234	Mr. Milbanke ..	110 Tel.	26.	Reforms. Change of views reported from St. Petersburgh with regard to proposals of Her Majesty's Government	211
235	Mr Gosselin ..	368 Confidential	25,	Reforms. M. Hanotaux' views. His complaint of English press	211
236	To Sir M. Durand ..	48 Tel.	28,	Armenian revolutionaries on Persian frontier. Trouble reported from Van	212
237	Consul-General Blunt	52	22,	Poll tax on Mahommedans. Constitution of commissions in Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir and Cossova	213
238	Mr. Milbanke ..	369 Confidential	24,	Reforms. Count Goluchowski's information as to Russian views and French proposals ..	214
239	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	..	30,	Reforms carried out. Memorandum respecting. Reports from the various vilayets on execution of reforms	214
240	To Sir P. Currie ..	365	Dec. 1,	Reforms in Bitlis Vilayet. Answers No. 229. Approves representations to Porte respecting seizure of relief money	218
241	Sir P. Currie ..	966	Nov. 20,	Expulsion of Armenians from Silleh. Answers No. 33. Explains circumstances	218
242	" " ..	970	21,	Sentence on Bishop of Bitlis confirmed. Has asked for leniency	218
243	" " ..	973	24,	Kaimakams of Hadjin and Hafik. Appointments of	219

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
244	Sir P. Currie ..	975	Nov. 25, 1896	Reforms. Failure of French efforts. Prospects of more conciliatory attitude	219
245	" " ..	976 Confidential	25,	Reforms. French efforts. Conversation between Mr. Block and Tewfik Pasha ..	219
246	" " ..	977 Most Conf.	25,	Russian policy in Turkey. Views of Russian Chargé d'Affaires as communicated to French Ambassador	220
247	" " ..	981	26,	Migration of Mouhajirs into Armenian provinces. Report from Vice-Consul at Aivali	221
248	" " ..	982	26,	Visit of Board of Health to Constantinople prisons. Refusal of Grand Vizier to permit	222
249	" " ..	983	26,	Release of Armenian prisoners at Erzeroum, reported by Consul Graves	222
250	" " ..	984	26,	Kurdish depredations in Van district. Report from Vice-Consul Williams	223
251	" " ..	985	26,	Armenian Patriarchate. Election of Mgr. Ormanian	224
252	" " ..	986	27,	Situation in Vilayet of Bitlis. Report from Vice-Consul	224
253	" " ..	987	27,	Reforms at Sivas begun. Report from Vice-Consul. List of Armenian prisoners ..	225
254	" " ..	989	27,	Interview with Armenian Catholicos at Echmiadzin. Memorandum by Mr. Dobson ..	228
255	Mr. Milbanke ..	379 Very Conf.	27,	Reforms. Modification in Russian views ..	228
256	" " ..	381 Very Conf.	30,	Reforms. Modification in Russian views. Conversation with Count Szecsen	229
257	Consul-General Blunt	53	28,	Armenians in Vilayet of Janina and at Salonica. Reports on condition of	229
258	Sir E. Monson ..	43 Tel.	Dec. 3,	Reforms. Conversation with Sultan ..	230
259	Mr. Milbanke ..	112 Tel.	4,	Reforms. Count Goluchowski will not join in any further representation to Sultan ..	231
260	Sir E. Monson ..	379	4,	Reforms. First conversation with M. Hanotaux	231
261	Sir P. Currie ..	479 Tel. Confidential	5,	Reforms. Conversation with M. Cambon. Russian policy	232
262	Sir N. O'Conor ..	265	5,	Reforms. Adhesion of Russia to proposals of Her Majesty's Government	233
263	" " ..	266 Very Conf.	25,	Reforms. Remarks upon apparent change in views of Russia	233
264	" " ..	268 Confidential	Nov. 27,	Condition of Turkey. Views of M. de Nélidow	234
265	Sir P. Currie ..	990	30,	Selling of Armenians as slaves at Aleppo. Acting British Consul contradicts rumour ..	235
266	" " ..	991	Dec. 1,	Hauran. Arrest of Druses. Report from Consul Eyres	235
267	" " ..	992	1,	Emigration of Armenians. Report from Trebizond	236
268	" " ..	995	1,	Constantinople disturbance. Special Court. Transmits Table of all cases tried, with Memorandum	237

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
269	Sir P. Currie ..	996	Dec. 1, 1896	Mr. Chambers and American school at Baghtchejik. Report from Vice-Consul at Ismidt. Alleged connection of Mr. Chambers with revolutionaries. Torture of prisoners. Postal irregularities	241
270	,, ,, ..	998	2,	Collection of taxes in Kharput Vilayet. Report from Vice-Consul on extortion practised ..	244
271	,, ,, ..	999	2,	Reforms in Kharput Vilayet. Report from Vice-Consul on progress made	247
272	,, ,, ..	1000	2,	Disturbances at Eghin. Report from Vice-Consul at Kharput	248
273	,, ,, ..	1001	2,	Reforms in Diarbekir Vilayet. Progress made. Report from Vice-Consul	253
274	,, ,, ..	1002	2,	Condition of Nestorians. Report from Vice-Consul at Van	254
275	,, ,, ..	1003	2,	Reforms in Erzeroum Vilayet. Report from Her Majesty's Consul	255
276	,, ,, ..	1004	3,	Druse prisoners at Beirout. Report from Acting Consul	257
277	,, ,, ..	1005	3,	Reforms in Beirout Province. Report from Acting Consul-General	257
278	,, ,, ..	1206	3,	Murder of Christians in Beirout. Report from Acting Consul-General	258
279	,, ,, ..	1007	3,	Financial position of Sivas Vilayet. Report from Vice-Consul	259
280	,, ,, ..	1008	3,	Reforms in Vilayet of Sivas. Report from Vice-Consul as to progress ..	260
281	,, ,, ..	1009	3,	Armenian prisoners released at Aleppo. To be tried again. Representations made to Porte	261
282	,, ,, ..	1012	3,	Reforms and subscriptions for military funds at Angora. Committees formed to promote. Transmits despatch from Acting Consul ..	262
283	Sir N. O'Conor ..	274	6,	Financial reforms. French Government trying to induce Russia to accept financial commission	263
284	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	..	8,	Reforms in Anatolia. Progress of	263
285	Sir P. Currie ..	483 Tel.	9,	Prisoners at Aleppo. Priest Dev Gevond Kahaam not yet released	264
286	Mr. Milbanke ..	114 Tel.	10,	Reforms. Refers to No. 80. Austrian Government agree in principle with proposals of Her Majesty's Government	264
287	To Sir E. Monson ..	506 A	10,	Reforms. Baron de Courcel asked as to French reply to Circular of the 20th October ..	264
288	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	..	11,	Reforms in Anatolia. Further progress ..	264
289	Sir P. Currie ..	1015	9,	Armenian massacre at Everek. Report from Acting Consul at Angora	265
290	,, ,, ..	1016	9,	Elopement of Turk with Armenian girl. Report from Trebizond. Turks married to Armenians think themselves exempt from military service	266
291	,, ,, ..	1017	9,	Plundering of Armenian house at Trebizond by Turks. Report from Consul Longworth	266

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
292	Sir P. Currie ..	1018 Confidential	Dec. 9, 1896	Reforms in Vilayet of Smyrna. Receipt of instructions by Vali. Despatch from Acting Consul	267
293	,, ,, ..	1019 Confidential	9,	Armenian prisoners at Erzeroum. Despatch from Consul forwarding Petition ..	268
294	,, ,, ..	1020	9,	Reforms in Vilayet at Van. Report on progress from Vice-Consul	270
295	,, ,, ..	1021	9,	Reforms in Vilayet of Jerusalem. Report from Consul Dickson. Character of Ibrahim Pasha	272
296	,, ,, ..	1022	9,	News from Mosul. Despatch from Mr. Rassam	273
297	,, ,, ..	1023	9,	Reforms in Vilayet of Bitlis. Report from Vice-Consul Monahan	274
298	,, ,, ..	1024	9,	Eghin massacre. Transmits account by Mrs. Rendel Harris	276
299	,, ,, ..	1028	9,	Kurdish raids in Vilayet of Van. Transmits Memorandum by Colonel Ponsonby on necessary measures for placing force at disposal of Vali. Memorandum presented to Porte ..	278
300	,, ,, ..	1029	9,	Condemned Armenian prisoners at Erzeroum. Transmits despatch from Consul Graves inclosing Petition. Reasons in favour of free pardon	279
301	,, ,, ..	1030 Secret	9,	Movement of "Young Turkey" party. Advances to foreign Missions. Alleged plots against Sultan. Arrests at Constantinople	281
302	,, ,, ..	1031	10,	Distress and relief in Khozan. Report from Vice-Consul Massy	283
303	,, ,, ..	1032	10,	Reforms at Adana and free emigration of Armenians. Report from Vice-Consul Massy	283
304	,, ,, ..	1033	10,	Pecuniary difficulties of Government in Trebizond Vilayet. Report from Consul Longworth	284
305	,, ,, ..	1034	10,	Commissions of Inquiry and Control at Trebizond. Transmits report on action from Consul Longworth	285
306	,, ,, ..	1037	10,	Election of Armenian Patriarch. His installation and address to Sultan	285
307	Mr. Milbanke ..	387 Confidential	5,	Reforms. Attitude of Count Goluchowski. His views as to coercion	286
308	,, ,, ..	394 Confidential	11,	Reforms and question of coercion. Conversation with Count Goluchowski as to French and Russian views. Question of Dardanelles	287
309	To Sir P. Currie ..	384 Confidential	15,	Reforms. Conversation with French Ambassador (see No. 287)	287
310	Mr. Milbanke ..	115 Tel.	16,	Reforms. Conversation with Count Goluchowski respecting views of Russian Government and their instructions to M. de Nélidow	288
311	Sir E. Monson ..	48 Tel.	16,	Reforms. Refers to No. 287. M. Hanotaux' explanation of views as to coercion. His irritation at Russian answer to Circular of Her Majesty's Government being sent without notice to him	288

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
312	Sir P. Currie ..	486 Tel.	Dec. 17, 1896	Reforms. Safety of Christians. Question of coercion. M. de Nélidow's instructions ..	288
313	" " ..	486 Tel. Most Conf.	17,	Reforms. M. de Nélidow's instructions as to warning Sultan	289
314	Sir E. Monson ..	394 Confidential	17,	Reform and question of coercion. Interview with M. Hanotaux. Explanation of views of French Government	289
315	" " ..	395 Secret	17,	Reforms and coercion. Views of German and Austrian Ambassadors	290
316	" " ..	403 Most Conf.	18,	Reforms and coercion. Interview with Austrian Ambassador. Conversation respecting French views	290
317	Mr. Milbanke ..	116 Tel. Confidential	18,	Reforms and coercion. Refers to No. 311. Conversation with Count Goluchowski respecting French views	291
318	Sir P. Currie ..	488 Tel. Confidential	20,	Reforms and coercion. Remarks by M. de Nélidow respecting integrity of Ottoman Empire	291
319	" " ..	489 Tel. Confidential	20,	Reforms. M. de Nélidow's instructions. Reported proposal of Lord Salisbury that identic instructions should be sent to Ambassadors	291
320	" " ..	490 Tel. Confidential	20,	Reforms. Russian instructions. Refers to No. 319. Explanation as to	292
321	" " ..	491 Tel.	20,	Reforms. M. de Nélidow's interview with Sultan	292
322	To Sir P. Currie ..	242 Tel.	20,	Reforms. Refers to 319. Denies report as to proposed identic instructions	293
323	Sir P. Currie ..	1040	11,	Hadjin district. Report by Vice-Consul Massy on unsatisfactory condition. Lethargy of Governor-General	293
324	" " ..	1045	15,	Kurdish risings in Agcha-Tagh and Dersim. Report from Vice-Consul Fontana	294
325	" " ..	1047	15,	Murder of Padre Salvatore at Yenidjé-Kalé. Report from Consul at Aleppo	294
326	" " ..	1047	15,	Arrival of Hauran Druses at Angora from Constantinople. Report from Mr. Richards	295
327	" " ..	1049	15,	Release of Apik Effendi Oundjian	296
328	" " ..	1051	15,	Condemnation of Bishop of Bitlis. Reply of Porte to representations of Her Majesty's Embassy, and further *pro-memorid* urging commutation of sentence	296
329	" " ..	1052	16	Armenian revolutionary party at Erzeroum. Despatch from Consul Graves	297
330	" " ..	1055	17,	Appointments of Muavins at Adrianople, Sivas, and Beirout. Reports	298
331	" " ..	1056	7,	Emigration of Armenian orphans and establishment of orphanages. Representations made to Sultan	298
332	Sir N. O'Conor ..	276	11,	M. de Nélidow's instructions. He is to warn Sultan that coercion may be used.. ..	298
333	Sir P. Currie ..	1059	17,	Druse prisoners. Reports from Damascus and Beirout	299
334	Sir N. O'Conor ..	280	16,	M. de Nélidow's instructions. Conversation with M. Chichkine	300

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
335	Sir F. Lascelles ..	388 Confidential	Dec. 18, 1896	M. Chichkine's policy with regard to reform. Conversation with Count Montebello ..	300
336	To Mr. Milbanke ..	160	21,	Joint action at Constantinople. Conversation with Count Deym respecting attitude of Count Goluchowski	301
337	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	..	21,	Progress of reforms in Anatolia. Statement respecting	301
338	Nil.				
339	Sir E. Monson ..	50 Tel. Secret	22,	Reforms. Refers to Nos. 315 and 317. Austrian Ambassador is left in ignorance by Count Goluchowski, and is therefore influenced by his German colleague	302
340	Sir P. Currie ..	492 Tel.	22,	Armenian political prisoners. Steps to be taken to release. Bishop of Bitlis to be sent to Jerusalem	302
341	" " ..	1062	17,	Eghin massacre. Transmits *pro-memorid* presented to Porte	302
342	" " ..	493 Tel. Secret	23,	Reforms. Meeting of Ambassadors. Proposals of M. de Nélidow for beginning with reform in European provinces and execution of Law of 1880	303
343	" " ..	494 Tel. Secret	23,	Reforms. Instructions read by Italian, French, and British Ambassadors ..	304
344	" " ..	495 Tel.	23	Amnesty to Armenians and Mahommedans. Published	304
345	Mr. Milbanke ..	117 Tel. Confidential	23,	Reforms. Discouragement of Count Goluchowski at proceedings of Ambassadors ..	304
346	Baron de Courcel ..	..	23,	Reforms. Instructions given to M. Cambon ..	305
347	Mr. Milbanke ..	118 Tel. Confidential	24,	Reforms. No fresh instructions sent to Baron Calice	305
348	To Sir E. Monson ..	533	24,	Reforms. Interview with Baron de Courcel respecting M. Cambon's instructions ..	306
349	Sir P. Currie ..	497 Tel. Secret	25,	Reforms. Refers to No. 342. Objections of Baron Calice to Russian proposals ..	306
350	" " ..	499 Tel.	25,	Reforms. Categorical message to Sultan from Emperor of Russia respecting danger of not listening to European recommendations ..	307
351	To Sir P. Currie ..	398	26,	Sentence on Bishop of Bitlis. Approves *pro-memorid* to Porte inclosed in No. 328 ..	307
352	Sir P Currie ..	500 Tel.	27,	Advances of Sultan to England and France ..	307
353	" " ..	501 Tel. Secret	27,	Reforms. List of abuses drawn up by Ambassadors	307
354	Mr. Milbanke ..	119 Tel. Most Conf.	27,	Reforms. Interviews with Count Goluchowski. Russian proposal dropped. Necessity of secrecy respecting deliberations	308
355	" " ..	404 Confidential	19,	Reforms. Conversation with Count Goluchowski on subject of M. de Nélidow's visit to Vienna	308
356	" " ..	405 Confidential	21,	Financial reforms. Reported arrangement between France and Russia. Conversation with Count Goluchowski	309
357	Sir P. Currie ..	1065	21,	Mr. Fontana's services to naturalised Americans at Kharput. Transmits despatch from United States' Minister..	309

N	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
358	Sir P. Currie	1066	Dec. 21, 1896	Military Aid Fund and Reform Committee at Angora. Report from Mr. Richards ..	310
359	,, ,, ..	1067	21,	Reform Committee at Damascus. Report from Consul Eyres	311
360	,, ,,	1068	21,	Re-appointment of Moussa Pasha as Kaimakam of Trebizond. Report from Consul Longworth	312
361	,, ,,	1069 Confidential	22,	Charges against Governor-General of Beirout. Transmits report from Consul-General	312
362	,, ,, ..	1071	23,	Mr. Eastman's services at Kharput. Transmits letter from American missionary ..	313
363	,, ,, ..	1074	23,	Reforms. Steps taken to execute since 1895 ..	313
364	.. ..	1076	24,	Sentence on Bishop of Bitlis. Information respecting trial	314
365	,, ,, ..	1077	24,	Revolt of Turkish regiment at Moudania. Despatch from Mr. Gilbertson ..	315
366	,, ,, ..	1078	24,	Case of Archimandrite Vartabed. Despatch from Consul Graves	316
367	.. ,, ..	1079	24,	Alleged Armenian rebels at Yuzgat. Transmits report from Angora	317
368	.. ,, ..	1080	24,	Execution of reforms in Kharput Vilayet. Report from Vice-Consul Fontana ..	317
369	,, ,, ..	1081	24,	Execution of reforms. Transmits Circular to Consuls inquiring as to progress. List communicated by Sultan	319
370	,, ,, ..	1083	24	Amnesty to Armenians. Transmits statement. Address of Patriarchate to Sultan and text of amnesty	321
371	,, ..	1086	24,	Condition of Hauran. Transmits extract from "Stamboul"	323
372	Sir. Milbanke ..	113 Confidential	24,	Reforms. Interview with Count Goluchowski. His discouragement at proceedings of Ambassadors	324
373	Sir E. Monson ..	415 Secret	27,	Reforms. Conversation with M. Hanotaux respecting meetings of Ambassadors. His Excellency thinks they should be business-like, and that secrecy is important ..	324
374	Anthopoulo Pasha ..	.	27,	Reforms. Statement as to progress ..	325
375	Sir E. Monson ..	52 Tel.	26,	Reforms. Substance of No. 373	326
376	To Sir P. Currie ..	406	29.	Eghin massacre. Approves *pro-memorid* inclosed in No. 341	326
377	Sir H. Rumbold ..	121 Tel.	30.	Reforms. Count Goluchowski thinks it necessary to concert some form of coercion ..	326
378	Sir P. Currie ..	507 Tel. Secret	30,	Reforms. Further meeting of Ambassadors ..	326
379	To Baron de Courcel ..	507	30,	Reforms. Thanks for No. 346	327

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January 1897.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6833.]

No. 1.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 419.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 1, 1896, 11·20 A.M.

VICE-CONSUL at Kharput telegraphs that letters lately received from Eghin report the massacre of 2,000 Armenians, and that out of 1,150 houses 980 have been burnt.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 243. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 208 of the 17th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had with the Russian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the recent disturbances at Constantinople and the relations between Russia and Great Britain.

I approve the language which you held to M. Chichkine on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 3.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Batoum, September* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that since the recent massacres at Constantinople, a large number of Armenians from that city and the towns situated along the Anatolian coast, who are seeking safety in this country, have been arriving at this port by steamers belonging to the different regular lines, such as the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company, the Austrian Lloyds, the Messageries Maritimes, and the Paquet and Florio Rubattino Companies.

The Russian authorities do not appear to interfere with the refugees who are allowed to land at Batoum, irrespective of their nationality, provided they are furnished with passports duly endorsed by the Russian Consular officer at the port of departure.

Within the last fortnight, I should think quite 2,000 of these pitiable beings have been disembarked here, including men, women, and children, with everything that has been left to them, and evidently intend to select the Caucasus as their permanent residence for the future.

Many of the refugees have been provided with board and lodging by relatives whom they have been fortunate enough to find at Batoum, but the bulk of them have been obliged to procure accommodation for themselves at the various hotels and lodging-houses in the town, which are crowded to excess, notwithstanding that quite a large number of the refugees who could afford it, have already left Batoum for various towns and places in the interior of the Caucasus.

As all private subscriptions are prohibited in Russia, I am told that an application

made to the higher authorities at Tiflis by the wealthy Armenians of the Caucasus to be permitted to raise a fund for the relief of the refugees, by collections among themselves, was met with the refusal of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

No. 3*.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 302. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 24, 1896.*

AN hour or two after my return to Vienna last night I received your Lordship's telegram No. 167 of yesterday's date, and I lost no time to-day in requesting an interview with Count Goluchowski.

When I called upon him it stated that your Lordship had been good enough to receive me at Walmer on the 21st, and had charged me to make an important communication to him, and that since my arrival in Vienna you had done me the honour to recapitulate in a very confidential telegram the instructions you had given me verbally. I had thought it best, in order that his Excellency should have as accurate an idea as possible of the views of Her Majesty's Government, to address him a confidential communication based on this telegram; and with that I placed in his hands the letter of which I inclose a copy.

Count Goluchowski read it carefully twice over, and I could see that he was gratified at finding that your Lordship had paid Austria the compliment of consulting her before the other Powers. He stated that he completely shared your Lordship's views, and that I might be sure that they would meet with no opposition here, but that he felt convinced that Russia will never consent to such a consultation among the Ambassadors. He added that, during Prince Lobanow's visit to Vienna, he had himself suggested the expediency of the Powers taking some such step as your Lordship now proposes. He had made this proposal chiefly in regard to the necessity of a reform in the levying of the revenue of Turkey, with a view to prevent the iniquities and waste prevalent under the existing system. But he had met with a curt and peremptory negative from Prince Lobanow, who positively refused to agree to any step involving a tutelage of Turkey; and he apprehends that the Emperor Nicholas will be found to be under the influence of the views of his late Minister, and that His Imperial Majesty will consequently reject your Lordship's proposal. He fears that at any rate the stipulation as to the employment of coercive measures against the Sultan in case His Ottoman Majesty prove recalcitrant will alarm others besides the Russians.

Having made this statement, Count Goluchowski seemed disinclined to pursue the subject; but before it completely dropped I took care to state my surprise at the persistency with which, throughout a large portion of the Continent, not unfortunately excepting Austria-Hungary, the most absurd and malevolent insinuations are being circulated in regard to the designs and policy of England, which, I said, would be scarcely worth denial but for the fact that persons in authority seemed to countenance them.

Count Goluchowski's observation on this was that the public declarations of eminent English politicians had been of a nature to encourage these reports; but he admitted that in saying this he did not refer to partisans or members of the present Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 3*.

Sir E. Monson to Count Goluchowski.

Cher Comte Goluchowski, *Vienna, le 24 Septembre,* 1896.

DANS une conversation récente avec Mr. Milbanke vous avez exprimé le désir d'être renseigné sur la politique Anglaise à l'égard de la Turquie. Lord Salisbury m'a donc chargé de saisir la première occasion, après mon retour à Vienne, pour vous expliquer que le but que se propose le Gouvernement de la Reine est le maintien de l'Empire Ottoman par la réforme de son système gouvernemental. Persuader au

Sultan d'accepter les changements nécessaires ne serait en aucun cas une tâche facile; mais elle deviendrait impossible à moins que les Six Puissances ne se mettent d'accord.

Lord Salisbury m'a donné l'ordre de vous demander si vous êtes disposé à charger l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie de conférer avec ses collègues à Constantinople sur les changements nécessaires pour la réforme du Gouvernement Ottoman, et pour l'empêchement à l'avenir des cruautés terribles qui ont été commises pendant deux ans en différentes parties de l'Empire.

Lord Salisbury propose que ce sera une condition de cette consultation que, si les Six Puissances, après avoir reçu le Rapport des Ambassadeurs, sont d'avis que certaines mesures seront convenables et nécessaires pour l'objet susmentionné, et le Sultan refuse de les exécuter, les Six Puissances le forceront de s'y conformer; ou que, dans le cas où une Puissance quelconque préférerait de s'abstenir de toute participation à l'emploi de la force nécessaire pour faire exécuter ces mesures, elle ne fera aucun obstacle aux autres.

Lord Salisbury saura gré au Gouvernement Impérial de la communication de son avis sur cette proposition, et me charge d'ajouter que jusqu'à présent il ne l'a soumise à aucun autre Gouvernement.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 4.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 759.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 738 of the 17th September, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two *procès-verbaux* of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Tribunal instituted for the trial of the persons arrested in connection with the recent massacres.

With regard to the Finduklian Khan case, which was concluded on the 17th instant, when nine Armenians were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, Mr. Devey informs me that the Procureur-Général himself is of opinion that Manuel, the "oda-bashi" or caretaker of the khan, should not have been condemned with the others, as he was absent on the day of the disturbances, and was telegraphed for to the Ministry of Police, whence he proceeded to the khan in the company of the police agents. No appeal, however, lies in the matter, and the Procureur-Général does not feel able to make a special report to the Minister of Justice in Manuel's favour, even if the Minister could intervene.

I propose to bring this case to the notice of the Minister of Police.

Since writing my preceding despatch, in which I recorded Mr. Devey's opinion as to the character of the Court, Mr. Stavrides, Legal Adviser to Her Majesty's Embassy, has informed me that, from daily information which he receives from persons connected with the Extraordinary Tribunal, he is convinced that these judicial proceedings are a mere comedy. "There are," he adds, "some honest men, but there are, above all, two spies who are in constant communication with the Palace. Moreover, there is a Sub-Commission composed of men who are not much to be trusted, which prepares the "dossier" for every case, according to instructions received from high quarters. Not one of the bloodthirsty rascals who committed so many murders has been brought before the Court. Two or three have been tried for theft, and one has been acquitted on the ground that he merely plunged his knife into the body of a dead man!"

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Procès-Verbaux of the Proceedings of the Extraordinary Tribunal instituted for the Trial of Persons arrested in connection with the recent Massacres.

L'AVOCAT du nommé Oussep, prévenu d'avoir tiré de Souli Monastir des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants ayant fait savoir qu'il ne pourra pas, par suite de maladie, assister au jugement du susnommé, le Tribunal Extraordinaire a

désigné, le 9 de ce mois, un autre avocat pour la défense du susnommé, dont le jugement a été ajourné.

La liste des dossiers de Serkis, du portefaix Nicogos, et de leurs acolytes prévenus d'avoir, de Findiklian Han et de Vitalis Han, tiré des coups de feu et lancé des bombes sur les troupes Impériales et les passants, a été dressée.

Le 10, le Tribunal Extraordinaire a interrogé neuf Arméniens prévenus d'avoir, de Findiklian Han, tiré des coups de feu et jeté des bombes sur les troupes Impériales et les passants, et a procédé au jugement de neuf autres Arméniens prévenus d'avoir fait feu et lancé des bombes sur les troupes Impériales et les passants ainsi que de huit Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tenu des propos séditieux. Les débats ont été remis à un autre jour, quelques témoins devant être entendus.

Le 11 il a interrogé dix-sept Arméniens prévenus d'avoir, de Tumondo Han, lancé des bombes et tiré des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants et a jugé six Arméniens prévenus d'avoir, de Vitalis Han et de Souli Monastir, jeté des bombes et tiré des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants. Les débats ont été remis à un autre jour pour l'audition des témoins qui ne se sont pas encore présentés au Tribunal.

Les procès-verbaux des audiences précédentes ont été lus et signés.

Le Tribunal Extraordinaire a procédé le 14 de ce mois au jugement de vingt Arméniens prévenus d'avoir de Haradji Han, de Vitalis Han, et de Findiklian Han, lancé des bombes et fait feu sur les passants et les troupes Impériales, ainsi que d'un autre Arménien prévenu d'avoir tiré des coups de feu de Souli Monastir. Les débats ont été ajournés pour l'audition de ceux des témoins qui ne se sont pas encore présentés au Tribunal.

Le 15 celui-ci a terminé le jugement de cinq Arméniens prévenus d'avoir, de Vitalis Han, jeté des bombes et tiré des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants. Leur culpabilité ayant été établie, ils ont été condamnés, à la majorité des voix, à la peine capitale.

Trois Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tenu des propos séditieux ont été acquittés, l'un à l'unanimité, et les deux autres à la majorité des voix.

Le 16 a eu lieu l'interrogatoire de six Arméniens prévenus d'avoir de Kutchuk Millet Han tiré des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants, et le jugement de neuf Arméniens prévenus d'avoir, de Findiklian Han, jeté des bombes et tiré des coups de feu, ainsi que de Nichan qui avait blessé à coups de couteau le nommé Diafer.

Le 17, il a procédé à l'interrogatoire de Hussein et de Méhemmed prévenus d'avoir tué Agop, ainsi que de deux Arméniens prévenus d'être affiliés au Comité Révolutionnaire et a jugé neuf Arméniens prévenus d'avoir de Findiklian Han tiré des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales et les passants. Quatre de ces Arméniens ont été condamnés, à la majorité des voix, à quinze ans de travaux forcés, et les cinq autres à deux ans de la même peine.

Un Arménien prévenu d'avoir tiré des coups de revolver sur les passants a été également jugé.

Les débats ont été ajournés.

No. 5.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 760.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond, reporting the disembarkation in that town of Armenians who have been expelled from Constantinople, and the assurances given by the Vali that he will do what he can to secure their safety on their journey to Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 11, 1896.

IN my telegram of yesterday's date I had the honour to inform your Excellency of the disembarkation at Trebizond for the interior of Armenians exiled from Constantinople, numbering, I have now ascertained, 530 in all. They were composed chiefly of the poorer class of Armenians, and your Excellency will be glad to learn that they were treated with all humanity possible under the circumstances by the Trebizond authorities, a certain amount of consideration even being shown to those among them who were evidently more well to do, and by whom therefore the hardship of their position would be felt most keenly. For reasons connected with the general situation at Trebizond they were not allowed to enter the town, but were landed at a place some little distance from the harbour. They were visited by the Governor-General, Cadri Bey, and I was informed by the latter, from whom I made inquiries as to the future of these unfortunate people, that he had given them personally a solemn assurance as to their safety while on the road. He had issued the strictest injunctions to that effect to the gendarmes who were to accompany them, as also to the various officials through whose districts they would have to pass. He had further sent orders to these officials that a sufficient supply of food should be provided; and had finally caused to be drawn up, under his own supervision, a list containing the names and destination of the Armenians who had been landed, which list would have to be returned to him on their entering the Erzeroum Vilayet, with a full report in case any of them should be found missing. His Excellency added that once beyond the limits of his own vilayet he could of course no longer be held responsible. In justice to his Excellency I should state, that the details I have given above do not rest solely upon the account given by his Excellency, but are borne out by independent testimony.

The following are the details respecting the emigration of the Armenians to Russia, referred to in my telegram to your Excellency of yesterday's date. In all these emigrants number about 750 souls, of whom some 250 left by the Russian steamer, 250 by the packet, and 200 by the Austrian, on the 4th, 6th, and 8th instant respectively. They were mostly townspeople of the class of small traders, silversmiths, and artizans, and took with them such of their household goods and belongings as they were able to carry, disposing of the rest to any one who might be found willing to purchase.

I shall, I trust, not be accused of being indifferent to the misery entailed upon these poor people by their severance from their homes, if I say that their departure may perhaps be the best course they could have adopted under the circumstances. For it is obvious that if they, perhaps the most thrifty section of the population, are impelled by their fears to incur such loss as I have referred to above, their remaining at Trebizond could only tend to increase their chances of a panic and consequent disturbance.

The only hopeful sign I can detect in the situation is, that the Turks of the better class make no secret of their discontent with the present state of things, and, I may add, with the policy that has brought it about. This feeling might not be worth much in the event of a massacre taking place, but it is, I believe, an appreciable factor in the prevention of one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 6.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 761. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from private letters which I have received from the Consuls in various parts of Turkey, showing the strong feeling that exists against the Sultan and his immediate *entourage* in Mahommedan circles throughout the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Smyrna, September* 18, 1896.

I HAD occasion to see Kiamil Pasha to-day, and I communicated to him the message contained in your Excellency's letter of the 12th instant. He expressed himself as very anxious indeed as to the outlook, and he discussed the political situation, and expressed a hope that the visit of the Czar to Berlin and Vienna may have the effect of a concerted action on the part of the Powers to save Turkey from destruction. He blamed His Imperial Majesty entirely. He again referred to the loss of prestige and influence of His Majesty in Mussulman circles, especially in the capital.

By his persistent inquiries as to the movements of our fleet, he evidently is prepared for some sort of foreign demonstration at Constantinople.

He alluded to the agitation in England, and deplored the cruel policy of his Government against the Armenians.

He did not confirm the report, circulated here, that he had been approached by the Yildiz clique, through a secret messenger, as to his returning to Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Salonica, September* 14, 1896.

THE leading Turks here seem very depressed and anxious as to the result of the action of the Great Powers in the present crisis, and I may add that, from all I hear and observe, they evince a growing feeling of dissatisfaction against the Sultan and the Yildiz clique, to whom they attribute the evils which now distract the country.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Erzeroum, September* 12, 1896.

THE generality of the Turks are not in the least hostile to the Armenians just now, and have taken the news from Constantinople pretty calmly. Many of them were in hopes that the disturbances at Constantinople were not confined to Armenians only, but that the Young Turkey party were up in arms against the Sultan, and that this might prove the beginning of the end.

No. 7.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 762.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 731 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond transmitting translation of a further Proclamation to the inhabitants of that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 15, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant to Mr. Herbert, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, the translation of a further Proclamation, in the Turkish language, to the inhabitants of Trebizond on the subject of the duty of the population to refrain from acts calculated to disturb the public peace, copies of which were posted up by the Vali Cadri Bey in the leading thoroughfares in this city on Friday last the 11th instant.

Your Excellency will not fail to notice that the above Proclamation contains a statement to the effect that persons, whoever they may be, whether Mussulmans or Christians, who attempt to molest others will be stopped by the police and soldiers by force of arms, and I have been informed by the Governor-General that, previous to the publication of the Proclamation, he had summoned the leading Mussulman Notables and Mukhtars of the various quarters, and had warned them that its provisions would most certainly be enforced.

If the above Proclamation is a faithful representation of the views now held by the Central Government at Constantinople, its publication can be productive, of course, of nothing but good, for, while its terms are sufficiently explicit to deter any attempt at mob violence, it will serve, on the other hand, to encourage the more peaceable among the Mussulmans who are desirous of avoiding a disturbance.

The state of the town, it is satisfactory to be able to report, still continues to be quiet.

On Saturday evening, however, the 12th instant, some little commotion was caused through a salute of a couple of rockets, fired off in honour of the Russian gun-boat "Kubanetz" by the Austrian steamer leaving for Constantinople. The report of these, as also of the return salute of the rocket fired by the "Kubanetz," caused certain Turks inhabiting a quarter near the harbour to rush off to their houses for their arms in the belief that it was a signal of some kind or other. They were, however, promptly stopped by the patrol, who explained what it was, thus calming their fears.

The incident was not a serious one, no other quarters being affected, but I report it to your Excellency as showing that the necessity of watchfulness on the part of the authorities has by no means ceased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

IT is possible that Armenian revolutionists may attempt to extend to the provinces the disorders and disturbances they have caused at Constantinople. If such a thing takes place it is obvious that owing to the ample force of police, gendarmerie, and military available, any such disturbance would be at once suppressed and prevented from spreading and the culprits punished. It is a duty belonging to the Imperial Government, that is to the police, gendarmerie, and military, in case of such events to stop any attempt on the part of these revolutionists, and to take the latter alive or dead, and this being so the people have no business whatever to interfere in any way. It is further the duty of all subjects to render obedience to the will and command of the Khalifate; to avoid the responsibility of their interfering in difficulties which the Government or country may meet with; to think carefully of the consequences of any acts of their own; to take into consideration also the responsibility arising from any action contrary to the will and command of Ilis Imperial Majesty, and the consequent gravity and danger of such conduct on their part to themselves. They must, therefore, should any attempt at disturbance be made by revolutionists, leave its prevention and punishment to the Imperial Government, in no way taking part or interfering. Should, however, any of the population, disobeying these orders, interfere in the duty and measures

taken by Government, or should any attempt be made by individuals of whatever class, Mussulman or Christian, to molest others, or to make use of arms in disobedience to the injunctions of the authorities, they will, by order of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, be stopped by force of arms by the soldiers, police, and gendarmes. This being well known, it is now proclaimed by the Government that everyone occupying himself with his own affairs, must refrain from all acts or procedure calculated to disturb in the least the public order.

No. 8.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 763.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 26, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond, reporting the further disembarkation of Armenians at that port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 19, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the following further Armenians from Constantinople have been landed at Trebizond for the interior by Mahsousch steamers, viz., 850 by the "Selamet," 134 by the "Ali Saïb Pasha," and 136 by the "Taif," on the 12th, 16th, and 18th instant respectively, making a total of 1,140 thus landed at Trebizond, or, with the 530 already reported in my despatch above referred to, of 1,670 in all. To these, however, must be added some forty or fifty conveyed by the usual steam-ship agencies.

The same measures were adopted by the Trebizond authorities with regard to these later arrivals as with regard to the first, sandals for the journey being in addition distributed to those among them who were of the poorer class.

M. de Cortanze, in a letter from Samsoun dated the 15th instant, informs me that, up to date of writing, 1,309 Armenians had been landed in that harbour from Constantinople. He states further that they were well treated.

Armenians have also been landed at Kerassond for the Kara Hissar district, but their number, I am informed by the Governor-General, is insignificant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No 9.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 764.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 26, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, reporting as to the forced repatriation of Cæsarean Armenians. I am calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the dangers which may arise from this measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th July reporting the continuous flow of Armenian emigration from Cæsarea through Angora to Constantinople, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that these unfortunate people are returning from the capital to their native city, as many as 100 persons having already passed through here on their way back to Cæsarea. I am given to understand that they are not allowed to stay in Angora more than twenty-four hours, in fact, just the time absolutely necessary for the completion of their travelling preparations, the hiring of vehicles, &c.

Considering how very critical the situation still is at Cæsarea, and how small a spark would suffice to cause a vast conflagration there, I shall be very anxious to learn what effect the forced repatriation of these poor creatures will have on the fanatical Turks, the dread of whose savage atrocities was the cause of their flight.

I hear that many more Cæsarean and other Armenians are expected daily from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 10.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 765.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul in Adana, written from Zeitoun, in which he gives an account of the lawless and unsafe condition of the province. I have caused a Memorandum on this state of things to be drawn up and presented to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Zeitoun, September* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of cypher telegrams dated the 27th and 28th ultimo, and 1st and 4th instant, on the disturbed state of Constantinople, and I beg to record my thanks for the valuable information contained therein.

Up to the present I am glad to be able to report that all has remained quiet in the Provinces of Adana and Aleppo, and I trust that it will continue so. I have been travelling through the most likely places to be influenced by recent events in the capital during the past three weeks, but I have noticed no desire on the part of the Christians to commit the smallest act against the Government. All are peacefully inclined and await with patience the bringing in of some real reform which will allow them to circulate free of danger and to earn a livelihood. They also ask for less pressure in the levying of taxes and the release of persons now confined at the pleasure of the Government without a proper trial.

I would beg respectfully to urge the importance of the Turkish Government taking immediate notice of these very reasonable demands. The spirit of the people is such that I fear some act endangering their own safety on their part if such reforms be not speedily brought in. It came to my knowledge as I was leaving Hadjin last week that the people were much discontented owing to the neglect to grant these very necessary requests, and that they were fast becoming hopeless, and threatened some hot-headed act to bring about what quietness and order failed to produce.

I felt it my duty to report this circumstance to the Kaimakam of Hadjin, asking him to hasten the reforms asked for, but your Excellency's action would at once bring about a favourable solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 11.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 766.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul in Adana, commenting on the uselessness of the orders sent from Constantinople to preserve order unless certain simple and rational reforms are granted and carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Zeitoun, September* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to Embassy cypher telegram dated the 5th instant, stating that the Porte had promised to send orders to the civil and military authorities to preserve order in the provinces, and asking for information as to the receipt of these orders by the officials named, I have the honour to state that from different sources, direct and indirect, I have ascertained that orders to the above effect have been received in the Aleppo Province.

It must be observed, however, that such orders are by no means a guarantee that order will be preserved. I have lately been told by many different Government officials, some of them very high ones, that the Turkish Government does not desire the massacre of Armenians as a general act throughout the country, but at the same time the hatred now to that race has become so intense that wherever the smallest act gives a plausible excuse for it a massacre on a large scale will follow. As they have expressed it, "the whole Armenian population of that place will be cut off." Recent events in Constantinople have proved that they do not exaggerate much, as in the provinces, if the soldiery and Moslem population be once turned loose, nothing will stop them.

I have exhorted all Armenians along my road during this journey to avoid any act which might give cause for bloodshed, and they have replied that inasmuch as I told them this they would believe me and remain quiet. But it is too much to hope that some hot-headed youths may not act foolishly, or that some ill-intentioned Moslem may not impute such act to the Armenians. The result will be bloodshed, and I fear we must look forward to this on a more or less large scale in different places this winter, especially if suspected people be cast into prison untried, and if want of security to life and property prevents Armenians gaining a livelihood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 12.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 767.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the Christian Kaimakam of Zeitoun and his Moavin. I am calling the attention of the Grand Vizier to the state of things described by Major Massy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

Zeitoun, September 13, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that Jean Jujopoulos Bey, new Christian Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, arrived here on the 9th instant, accompanied by Izzet Effendi, Moavin, and that I have had much conversation with them, we being guests in the house of Ali Pasha, Military Governor of Zeitoun.

The opinion which I have formed of the Kaïmakam is that he is a kindly-intentioned, nice man, but of weak character, and easily influenced and led.

As to the Moavin, he is self-asserting, aggressive, and cunning, evidently intending to take every question into his own hands, and, having decided it, refer it to the Kaïmakam in such a manner that this official can but order what the Moavin has arranged. In short, the Moavin will be the real Kaïmakam, and as the manner of the former to the people is aggressive and irritating, I fear no good can result from the present form of dual government.

I was present at several cases brought forward. The Moavin invariably broke in rudely, and having decided the case—always against the plaintiff in favour o" the Government—he said to the Kaïmakam, "Is it not so"? To which this official meekly assenting, the Moavin ordered the plaintiff off roughly.

No good can come of such treatment of a turbulent race little accustomed to be thus treated like dogs, and I fear they will not long remain quiet if such continue.

The Kaïmakam also appears disposed to refer matters to Ali Pasha, Military Governor. It is fortunate that this officer is possessed with tact, and is not inclined to oppress the people.

He generally declines to offer an opinion, feeling safe, I presume, that the Moavin will be sufficient to irritate and rouse the Armenians into some foolish hot-headed act.

I regret that I can give your Excellency no more hopeful prospect, but after careful deliberation I can only say that I shall be surprised if the present arrangement prove satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 13.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 768. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 28, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy, confidentially communicated to one of the Memorial mentioned in my telegram No. 404 of the 21st September, as having been presented to the Sultan by the Representatives of the Armenian nation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Memorial presented to His Majesty the Sultan by the Representatives of the Armenian Nation.

(Traduction.)

Sire,

LA nation Arménienne placée sous le sceptre de votre Majesté Impériale a été depuis des siècles, comme sujet fidèle du trône, traitée avec justice et l'objet de faveurs et de privilèges religieux de la part de son Gouvernement Impérial. De même, une concorde et une harmonie des plus parfaites ont toujours existé entre elle et ses compatriotes Musulmans. Ceux qui se sont distingués par leur mérite et leur capacité ont été admises aux emplois importants dans les diverses branches de l'Administration publique ainsi que dans les affaires générales et particulières des Palais Impériaux et

se sont rendus dignes de la haute confiance de l'Etat. De leur côté, les autres classes de cette population s'occupant de commerce et d'industrie ont acquis l'instruction et l'aisance.

Mais depuis quelque temps, nous le voyons avec regret, certaines suggestions émanées de l'intérieur aussi bien que de l'extérieur se sont produites dans le pays, et il s'en est suivi un état de choses préjudiciable aux intérêts politiques de l'Empire, et, partout, une situation troublée qui a aigri le cœur de notre magnanime Père et auguste Souverain.

Nous voyons aussi avec regret que des criminels qui sont toujours blâmés par les honnêtes gens se sont livrés à des entreprises de nature à créer pour notre patrie une situation hérissée de périls et causant sa ruine.

Il est vrai que certains éléments ont essayé de servir leurs propres intérêts sous le nom de réformes, mais ce n'était pas là servir les intérêts réels de l'Empire.

Sire,

Vos fidèles sujets n'entendent recourir qu'à votre Majesté Impériale et leur fidélité ne sera jamais entachée.

Ils n'attendent que de votre magnanimité et de votre sollicitude spéciale la sauvegarde de leur honneur, de leurs biens, et de leurs vies, ainsi que le maintien de leur privilèges, toutes choses qui leur ont été acquises *ab antiquo* sous les auspices de votre Majesté Impériale, et déclarent par la présente que leurs sentiments de fidélité et de dévouement envers le Trône Impérial resteront inébranlables.

La nation Arménienne espère par conséquent mériter la haute protection et la bienveillance de votre Majesté Impériale et ose la supplier de vouloir bien donner ses ordres augustes pour que toutes les mesures convenables qui seront déterminées et reconnues aptes à assurer son progrès et sa prospérité soient mises à exécution.

Nous avons l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Suivent les signatures du haut clergé, des Notables, et de la bourgeoisie Arménienne.)

No. 14.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 769.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a document communicated to the six Embassies by the Sublime Porte, with the statement that it was the text of a telegram addressed to the Ottoman Ambassador at the European Courts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Tewfik Pasha to Turkish Ambassadors at European Courts.

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le* 24 *Septembre*, 1896.

DEPUIS la fondation de l'Empire Ottoman ainsi que l'histoire et les faits mêmes le prouvent, tous les peuples qui sont passés sous sa domination ont joui, sans distinction de race ni de religion et sur un pied d'égalité, de la plus grande protection et des bienfaits de la justice, et les voies conduisant à la prospérité ont été tenues ouvertes à tout le monde, ce qui est démontré par l'existence dans le pays d'éléments non-originaires et par l'état florissant dans lequel ils se trouvent.

Ainsi le Gouvernement Impérial a non seulement traité ses sujets Arméniens suivant ces principes mais il les a même admis et continue de les admettre dans les diverses branches de l'Administration intérieure et extérieure de l'Etat. En dehors de ceux qui font partie des Conseils et des Tribunaux et qui occupent d'autres fonctions dans les provinces, il existe dans la capitale même 597 fonctionnaires non-Musulmans tandis que le nombre des fonctionnaires Musulmans ne dépasse par le chiffre de 1,700. Nous croyons que dans aucun pays les peuples soumis n'ont joui de pareilles prérogatives.

Néanmoins, depuis quelque temps les Arméniens, abusant de cette confiance et de toutes ces concessions, se sont mis en état de rébellion contre leur Souverain et ont commis toutes sortes de crimes par l'emploi d'engins destructeurs et autres moyens subversifs. Malgré toutes ces menées, le Gouvernement Impérial a pu, grâce aux mesures adoptées, maintenir l'ordre et la sécurité publique et a institué plusieurs corps judiciaires avec mission de juger et de punir sans exception et à quelque race ou religion qu'ils appartiennent, tous ceux qui se sont rendus coupables d'actes criminels. En outre, la Commission d'Inspection Militaire, composée de Maréchaux, de Généraux, et d'autres officiers supérieurs, a été chargée d'ouvrir une enquête pour constater s'il se trouve des fonctionnaires de l'État qui ont fait preuve de négligence dans l'exécution des ordres du Gouvernement Impérial et dans l'exercice de leurs attributions et, s'il y en a, d'agir à leur égard d'après les prescriptions de la loi. Comme il n'est pas admissible que les membres de cette Commission, qui sont des personnages consciencieux et de la plus haute honorabilité, et qui ont dans le temps prêté serment de ne jamais s'écarter de la justice et de l'équité, se prononcent contre la vérité, il a été décidé d'agir conformément aux conclusions des rapports qu'ils présenteront.

Le Gouvernement Impérial tout en s'occupant à extirper les germes de révolte semés par les Arméniens dans les provinces de l'Empire a non seulement mis entièrement en application les réformes arrêtées l'année dernière pour six des vilayets d'Anatolie, en exécution d'une promesse qu'il avait faite dans le Traité de Berlin, mais encore il poursuit l'extension de ces réformes aux autres provinces de l'Empire. En allant ainsi au delà même des dispositions de l'Article LXI du Traité susmentionné, il a donné une nouvelle preuve éclatante des intentions généreuses et bienveillantes dont notre auguste Maître n'a cessé d'être animé à l'égard de tous ses sujets.

Toutefois les Arméniens, par leurs menées révolutionnaires, ne cherchent pas réellement, comme ils le prétendent, à obtenir des réformes. Bien que leur nombre dans les six vilayets de l'Anatolie s'élève à peine à 600,000 contre une population Musulmane de 10,000,000, dont 8,000,000 déjà recensés, et 2,000,000 non encore soumis au recensement, ils visent à s'assurer la priorité et à détacher sous une forme d'autonomie administrative une partie importante de l'Empire dont l'intégrité et l'indépendance ont été affirmées par tant d'actes internationaux. Une pareille éventualité équivalant à un démembrement, le Gouvernement Impérial et la nation Ottomane ne peuvent en aucun temps et en aucune manière y souscrire, et il est évident que les Grandes Puissances Signataires des dits Actes ne sauraient jamais y consentir elles-mêmes.

Conformément à une décision du Conseil des Ministres sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial, votre Excellence est invitée à faire appel aux sentiments de justice et d'humanité du Gouvernement près duquel elle est accréditée pour l'amener, en considération des réformes entreprises par le Gouvernement Impérial, à faire expulser de son territoire les agitateurs Arméniens qui ont choisi certains points de l'Europe comme centres de leurs menées subversives et à faire promulguer une Loi assurant la punition de ceux qui commettent des actes odieux, qui font usage de bombes et de dynamite pour se livrer à une œuvre de destruction et de mort, et qui emploient des engins explosifs dont un seul suffit pour tuer une soixantaine d'innocents.

No. 15.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 770.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1896.*

ON the night of the 10th September last the police made a raid upon a house in Scutari which was supposed to be the place of manufacture of the explosives of the Constantinople revolutionaries. A certain amount of correspondence and a few bombs were seized, and about twenty Armenians were arrested, but none of high standing, as was originally asserted.

A further raid was made on the morning of the 19th instant in Pera, in a street not far from Her Majesty's Embassy, and Mr. Wendel, Reuter's agent in Constantinople, obtained permission to visit the house in the afternoon. He informs me that in a room on the first floor he saw a small printing press, a hectograph corresponding exactly in size with the circulars addressed by the Hintchag Committee to the Embassies, and a very large amount of correspondence in Armenian, also a bag full of revolver cartridges, coils of fuse, and a certain amount of electric wire. He then

proceeded to the kitchen, where, from a disused cistern, he saw produced some eighteen to twenty small hand-balls, about the size of an orange, and six large circular bombs, the size of a melon, all capped and nipplied, some loaded and some not; also two square infernal machines, apparently to be exploded by concussion.

On the 23rd September, Mr. Devey, Dragoman of the Consulate, was informed by the Turkish officials that on the preceding night more explosives, including three square bombs similar to those described above, were seized at the Armenian church at Galata, and also a quantity of revolutionary documents, including a list of persons (presumably civil and military authorities) whose death had been decreed by the Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 16.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 771.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 28, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 758 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora giving an account of the attack made on the Armenians by the Turks in that town, and of the promptitude and energy of the Vali and authorities in suppressing the riot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th instant, reporting an attack made by Turks on Armenians on the previous evening, I have the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency a detailed account of the incident.

A house in the Turkish quarter of the town, which appears to have been at the time untenanted, caught fire on Friday evening soon after sunset owing to the carelessness of the watchman in charge, who is reported to have thrown the half-extinguished end of his cigarette on a rubbish-heap near the door. One of the first persons to realize what had happened was a certain Mehemet Ali Bey, a Professor in the Idadié or Turkish Preparatory School, who, drawing his revolver, fired two shots in the air, in order, as he says, to give the alarm. A crowd soon collected, chiefly composed of Jews, who, as usual, were among the first to arrive on the scene, their object being to profit by the obscurity and confusion to appropriate any articles of minor value which might be rescued from the flames. On the arrival of the firemen with their small hand-engine, escorted by the nearest patrol, the Jews were driven away, and, in their flight from the burning building, contributed in no small degree to the alarm and confusion which were now fast becoming general. In the meantime, cries of "fire" having been raised in various parts of the town, a crowd of people—mostly Turks, the burning house being, as stated above, in the Turkish quarter—came trooping down to the scene of the conflagration, when, the revolver shots being heard, some one raised the cry that the Armenians had attacked and set fire to the Haji Bairam Mosque, which, as it happens, is also in that part of the town. The cry was taken up by the Turks generally, and as they were then passing through the main thoroughfare of the town known as the "baluk bazar" (fish market), they hunted out and attacked with bludgeons and knives all the Armenians, whether Gregorians or Catholics, whom they came across. Fortunately, however, the actual bloodshed was very small, partly owing to the fact that most Christians had gone home at that (comparatively) late hour, and partly to the energy and promptitude with which the military and police arrested the forward movement of the attacking party and steadily drove them back in the direction whence they came. It was at this juncture that a Turk, who was running past with a knife in his hand, was challenged by the patrol, and, refusing to stop, was shot dead by a Lieutenant of the regulars with his revolver.

This was the only person who was actually killed, though the condition of one of the wounded Armenians is considered by the attendant physician to be very serious.

As soon as the Vali heard of what was going on, he went out into the streets himself, and for six hours patrolled the town on foot in all directions giving orders to the troops and police to drive back at the point of the bayonet all Turks going in the direction of the Christian quarters.

His orders were carried out to the letter, and there can be no doubt that a movement which threatened at one time to have very serious consequences was, in this way, stifled at its very inception. I learn, on good authority (my own residence being in the country 4 miles from Angora), that the Turks on hearing the revolver shots and the cries of those who asserted that the Armenians had set fire to the Haji Bairam Mosque, came flocking out of their houses by hundreds armed mostly with bludgeons and knives, and were streaming down towards the Christian quarter when they were met and driven back in the manner above described by the troops co-operating with the police. That there would have been, at all events, an attempt at a general massacre of Armenians had the action of the authorities been less prompt and energetic, I have very little doubt in my own mind, and while stating that the behaviour of the Vali was really admirable, more especially when one considers his age and the extreme natural slowness of his movements, I cannot speak too highly of that of the other chief functionaries of the vilayet, all of whom, civil and military, were out in the streets and doing their utmost to put down disorder. The number of wounded Armenians (four Catholics and six Gregorians) is put at ten, but I am given to understand that one only has received serious wounds.

As regards the Turk who was killed, Vasfi Bey, the officer who shot him, is now under arrest, which, in one important respect, is most unfortunate, because the knowledge—now general—that the only man killed in the course of the disturbance was a Turk, would have had a most excellent and salutary effect on those of his co-religionists who might be tempted to create disorder on a future occasion. The reasons given for the arrest are variously stated. Some declare that it was quite unnecessary to kill the Turk because he could easily have been stopped without having recourse to extreme measures.

Others say that Vasfi Bey had been heard by his men to declare that he would kill the first Armenian he met, and that his actual victim was shot by mistake, Vasfi Bey having, in the darkness and confusion, taken him for an Armenian. In any case the medical man (a Gregorian Armenian), who has examined this officer, declares that he is now, and was, in all probability, at the time of firing, under the influence of a sort of delirium, and therefore unaccountable for his actions.

I regret that owing to a passing indisposition I have not been able to see the Vali since the disturbance and so to learn what is the official account on this and one or two other points. I hope to see his Excellency to-morrow, and I shall take the opportunity of congratulating and thanking him most warmly for his really admirable behaviour during the recent events.

Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that had men like Tewfik Pasha been in command last year in other towns of Anatolia, few, if any massacres of Armenians would have taken place. It may be argued with some show of plausibility that the very strict orders recently received from Constantinople influenced the Vali's conduct in the right direction, whereas no such orders were issued last year until too late. I am not, however, of this opinion, but consider that I am only doing his Excellency simple justice when I declare it to be my belief that his action in any case would have been the same.

In conclusion, I should mention that Mehemet Ali Bey, who, as stated above, fired two shots from his revolver before the burning house, is now under arrest for having discharged a firearm at night without adequate cause, he being perfectly well aware that such an act during the present disturbed and troublous times would naturally be interpreted as a signal by all ill-intentioned persons. It is an open secret that Mehemet Ali Bey belongs to the "young Turkey" party, and is, in consequence, looked upon with extreme suspicion by the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—The number of Turks arrested in connection with these events is variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty persons. I will not fail to report again shortly on this and other points.

W. S. R.

No. 17.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 772.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, giving full details concerning the massacre which was carried out at Malatia in the autumn of last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Kharput, August 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report with regard to the late disturbance at Malatia, in the course of which 1,500 Armenians, at the lowest estimate, lost their lives. The particulars set forth in this despatch were communicated to me by several Turkish gentlemen of repute whose acquaintance I made during my stay in Malatia, and who were instrumental in saving Christian life and property during the massacre there. These particulars were afterwards corroborated, in my hearing, by the Heads of the various Christian communities and by other Armenians of note in that town.

For some days previous to the outbreak the Armenians had been in great anxiety owing to the rumoured concealment, in various Mussulman quarters, of numbers of Kurds from the neighbouring districts, and of the distribution of rifles among the Mussulman population.

The Christians began, in fact, to stow their property for safety in the Armeno-Catholic and Gregorian churches, and in the premises of the Catholic Mission. The Mutessarif assured, however, the Catholic Bishop, by letter, that there were no grounds for anxiety, and that nothing would happen to his community.

The official explanation as to the cause of the outbreak is to the effect that a barber named Ehlijian Ogblou Serkis cut the throat of a Kurd whilst shaving him. The name of the Kurd alleged to have been thus murdered is unknown, and Serkis was killed during the rioting. This story is ridiculed by my informants, who assure me that the disturbance began by the following incidents:—

A "Yazmaji," or merchant of hand-painted stuffs, named Garabet, who was carrying on his business in the market at the time was accosted by the night watchman, a Turk named Hadji Yaüb Ogblou, who demanded some scarves at a certain price. Garabet refused, saying that he should lose by the bargain. The watchman, however, persisted, and upon Garabet's renewed refusal, drew a revolver, crying, "Ah, infidel, will you give orders to me," and shot him dead. Thereupon, as if a signal had been given, the Turks rushed out from all sides with arms in their hands, and fell upon the Armenians before the latter had time to close their shops. The market was at the same time surrounded by zaptiehs and Bashi Bazouks, who turned back and fired upon the fugitives.

Some fifty Armenians, however, whose shops were close by the Government house, ran there for refuge, and collected in the court-yard. Some eighteen of them shortly afterwards went up to the Mutessarif's room and begged him to protect them. He allowed them to remain in certain unoccupied rooms for some hours, until, towards evening, Haridji Ogblou Abdullah, an ex-member of the Administrative Council, and who is alluded to in my despatch of the 19th May last, accompanied by Suluk Ogblou Mehmet, Hadji Ogblou Ali Bey, and by the Tabur Aghasi, Reshid Effendi, appeared on the scene, all of them with rifles in their hands. They reproached the Mutessarif for protecting the Armenians, and told him that if he persisted in sheltering them, the mob would attack the konak.

The Mutessarif, in great fear, at once gave orders that the refugees should be sent down to the court-yard, where the Kurds and zaptiehs had already opened fire upon the Armenians collected there.

A young man named Simon Jiljilian, who was afterwards imprisoned, was retained by the Mutessarif upon the plea that he knew French, and was useful for making translations. The rest were hustled down into the yard and immediately attacked.

Out of the fifty refugees in the Government House, only six escaped from there alive. Their names are :—

Simon Jijilian.	Stepan Tutelian.
Gerakin Terzarian.	Stepan Bedrossian.
Sarkis Guezurian.	Nalbandian Orfi.

The three latter, however, were subsequently killed in the town.

Sahag Guezurian was rescued by Yacob Pasha, referred to in my Confidential despatch of the 15th June, who happened to be present at Malatia, and to arrive at the konak in time to save the boy's life.

The inclosed list contains the names of nearly all those who perished in the Government House yard. The terrible scene of the slaughter has been graphically described to me by two Turks, one of whom was standing at the time by the sentry-box at the konak gate, the other being in a house just opposite. Another Mussulman, who was with the Mutessarif, tells me that he himself saw the Armenians thrust down the stairs and butchered in the court-yard.

The body of Napoleon Baghdoyan, a leading Malatia Armenian, who was killed whilst endeavouring to escape by the gateway referred to, was hung up before a butcher's shop by Haridji Oghlou Abdullah, who laughingly offered his flesh at 5 parus the oke.

The Tabur Agasi is accused of having murdered with his own hand the lad Tstipan Baghdoyan (nephew of Napoleon), one of the refugees at the konak.

Shortly after the disturbance commenced some 1,500 Armenians, including men, women, and children, took refuge in the Armeno-Catholic Cathedral. Some twenty of them were armed with guns and revolvers. A large and menacing crowd soon collected around the church, but, hearing that there were armed men inside, were afraid to attack it. An order was subsequently dispatched by the Mutessarif to the Bishop to collect and deliver over to the authorities all weapons found within the church; and protection was promised for the refugees upon condition of this order being obeyed. The arms in question were duly surrendered on the Tuesday evening, but on the following morning the mob again surrounded the church, burst open the doors and fired upon the now defenceless Armenians, a "bekji," named Yacob Oghlou Pasha, urging them on.

The Armenians managed, however, for the most part, to escape by a back door and rushed in a crowd to Cara Cash Oghlou Mehmet's house, where they were admitted and sheltered. They were subsequently taken by their host to the barracks for protection, where they remained five days.

The populace, after breaking into and plundering the church, broke open two tombs in the nave and dragged out the dead in search for booty. They then set fire to the church, but only succeeded in damaging it partially.

In the meanwhile, a band of some 2,000 Armenians had fled for refuge to the Gregorian church. Some of them were armed, and when a savage attempt was made by the mob to burst open the doors the more determined among the refugees mounted upon the parapet of the roof and fired upon their assailants; and the church remained in a state of siege for nearly three days. On the evening of the third day the Armenians received a peremptory order from the Mutessarif to surrender their arms, upon condition of a guard being sent for their protection. This order many were unwilling to obey, but they were finally compelled by the majority to give in; thereupon two men shot themselves in despair, one of the two having previously attempted to kill his wife.

On the following morning the church was again besieged, the promised guard not having appeared; but the timely arrival of Yacob Pasha, of Behesni, saved the situation. He had brought, it seems, the Mutessarif with him, and succeeded in safely escorting the Armenians in a throng to the barracks, where some 3,000 other fugitives had already assembled.

There thus remained in the Malatia barracks during several days upwards of 5,000 Armenians, huddled together, scantily nourished upon the coarsest and commonest bread, with insufficient water to drink, and in the greatest fear and suspense. The Head of the Catholic Mission before alluded to, who was compelled to flee for safety to the barracks when the Mission buildings were burning over him, tells a sad tale of the sufferings of the refugees during those five terrible days. Children were born and children died; there was no room to move about, and there were no sanitary arrangements of any utility.

The following incidents constitute, perhaps, the darkest features of the disturbance at Malatia :—

Massacre at the House of Kizil Kesishian.

Some 250 Armenians had taken refuge in the house in question, and had barred the door. Many of them were armed, and they managed to hold their assailants at bay for a considerable time. In the evening, however, the Mutessarif sent them a message summoning them to deliver up their arms, and promising to send a guard for their protection early the following morning. The arms were handed over, but the next morning, in the place of a guard, a raging mob again surrounded the house, burst open the door, and slaughtered every male Armenian in the place. The bodies were afterwards cast into a well.

Massacre at the House of Haridji Oghlou Abdullah.

Over 100 Armenians had gathered there for safety. They were circumcised, and afterwards killed as "kurban," *i.e.*, thrown upon their backs and their throats cut, after the manner in which sheep are sacrificed.

Massacre of seventy Armenians at Sigirlik Chukur.

These Armenians had fled for refuge to the house of a Turk named Hadji Sirtik Bey. Haridji Oghlou Abdullah, together with the Ali Bey alluded to in connection with the incident at the Government House, came two days later and caused the refugees to be circumcised, promising to conduct them to the barracks for safety. On the way thither, the Armenians were attacked at a place called Sigirlik Chukur, opposite the Mutessarif's private residence, by a number of Moslems, urged on by Abdullah and Ali Bey, and they were killed to the last man.

Slaughter of fifty Christians in Artin Cayunjian's House.

These men were killed under the same circumstances as those at the house of Kizil Kesishian. The only survivor was a lad named Pilipos, who managed to escape into the street.

Another sad incident was the murder of the two grandchildren of an old woman named Sultan Mugherditch, who had no other relatives living. When the rioting began in the market, she locked her shop door and hid with the two boys, aged respectively 12 and 14 years, upon the roof top behind some chimneys. The shop was eventually broken into and plundered, and the plunderers, after searching the house, finally discovered Sultan and her grandchildren huddled together upon the roof. A man named Shukur Oghlou Varhab seized the children, and, in spite of the woman's tears and entreaties, deliberately cut their throats. Sultan Mugherditch is now entirely destitute.

Three Armenians who were in prison at the period of the troubles were killed there; their throats were cut with glass from a window-pane or with a piece of tin. Their names were :—

Garabet Mardigian.
Adiyamanli Naturian.
Serkis of Hakim Han.

A Moslem gentleman who inspected the bodies bears testimony to the crime.

The desolation and destitution now prevailing in Malatia are very great. The Catholic Mission, Armenian and Protestant churches are destroyed and the Armeno-Catholic Cathedral considerably injured. A large part of the Armenian quarter is in ruins. According to a list carefully prepared by Mr. Gates, who was present at Malatia for relief purposes at the same time as myself, there are now upwards of 1,000 orphans in the town and no less than 510 widows.

The main responsibility for the disturbance undoubtedly rests with the Mutessarif, whose attitude throughout seems to have been one of hesitation and pusillanimity. He allowed rifles to be distributed among the Moslems prior to the outbreak; he permitted, through his cowardice, the perpetration of a disgraceful slaughter within the walls of his own official residence; he is responsible for massacres the victims in which he had

disarmed, under promises of protection, and then abandoned to the fury of the populace; and he himself caused the death of a young man named Sarafian Ohannes by compelling him to return to the cathedral and search for arms after the arms had been surrendered and the mob had forced an entry.

Little blame can be attached to the military commander, who arrived from Sivas the day before the troubles began, and who was unwell at the time.

The principal ringleader among the civilians during the disturbance was the man Haridji Oghlou Abdullah, whose name figures so frequently in this Report. He sent messengers to the various Kurdish tribes, inviting them to the sack of Malatia. He assisted in the distribution of Martinis, fifteen of which were afterwards collected in one Turkish quarter alone by a Turkish acquaintance of mine; and he took a leading part in scenes of bloodshed such as have been well-nigh unparalleled.

The Hakim—who has now been dismissed—and the Tabur, Agasi Reshid Effendi, were largely instrumental in exciting the fanaticism of their Moslem fellow-citizens against the Christians.

I have urged Shakir Pasha to remove and punish the Mutessarif and the Tabur Agasi, and to have the chief criminals among the civilians placed under arrest. The Marshal assures me that the Mutessarif will be disgraced, but seems unwilling to take further steps through fear of irritating the Mahommedan population.

A large portion of the property plundered at Malatia is now alleged to be concealed in the houses of the Tabur Agasi, Haridji Oghlou Abdullah, Ali Bey, and Cara Cash Oghlou Mehemet. The Mutessarif, who is possessed of a large private fortune, has, it seems, appropriated a large share of the valuables.

Several Turkish Notables received hospitably and honourably protected large numbers of the Armenians.

No Kizil-Bash Kurds took part in the disturbance at Malatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

STATEMENT of Armenians killed in the Government House at Malatia.

Napoleon Bagdoyan.
Istipan Bagdoyan.*
Garabet from Arabkir.
Serkis Abdalian.
Agob Kaprielian.
Krikor Tatarian.
Krikor Goznamian.
Krikor Munavorian.
Serkis Gureghian.
Kevork Ghuzelkeshishian.
Garabet Kavoukjian.
Vartan Yoghunian.
Harotun Yoghunian.
Agob Yoghunian.
Pakradun Mugherdichian.
Serkis Kelleian.
Ohannes Krikorian.
Nazaret Kara Biberian.
Kevork Viregian
Avedis Ourlion.
Garabet Yoghoubian.
Serkis Tiftigian.
Koundaraji Agob.
Koundaraji Arakil.
Bogos Shekerian.
Garabet Gejeguezurian.
Sahag Maghurian.
Ohannes Gudenian.
Bedros Dedeyan.
Pilibos Deli Piloyan.
Agob Andonian.
Aharon Der Bogosian.
Muksi Khazar.
Ohannes Kafontouzian.
Bedros Tourabian
Harotun Chalmalian.
Toros Mazmanian.
Two men from Arabkir, and others whose names are unknown.

---

* Killed at gateway.

No. 18.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 775.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 29, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dwight, of the Bible House at Constantinople, inclosing an extract from a letter of the Rev. C. S. Sanders, of the Bible House Mission at Ourfa, testifying to the skill and ability shown by Mr. Fitzmaurice during the labours of the Commission at Birejik and Ourfa.

I desire at the same time to add my testimony to the value of Mr. Fitzmaurice's services, and to the courage shown by him in a situation of considerable danger. The task confided to him was one of great difficulty, and the successful execution of his mission is worthy of high praise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Rev. H. Dwight to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Bible House, Constantinople, September* 21, 1896.

ALLOW me to inclose to your Excellency, as a matter of information, an extract from a letter just received from the Rev. C. S. Sanders, of our Mission at Ourfa, which expresses high commendation of the abilities of Mr. Fitzmaurice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. O. DWIGHT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Rev. C. Sanders to Rev. H. Dwight.

(Extract.) *Ourfa, September* 8, 1896.

I OFTEN wonder if the dangerous nature of the task confided to Mr. Fitzmaurice has been realized. I doubt very much if persons who have not been in places in the interior, away from the stations where Consuls reside in numbers, have any idea how dangerous such an errand is.

Two months ago Birejik was about as hopeless a place to try such a thing as can be conceived, "especially as the Christians were utterly without backbone." They would declare to us if met in other places (as in Ourfa) that they were Christians, but would say that if they met us in Birejik they would not dare recognize us, and would tell the Moslems that they were even more Moslem than those originally so.

Such was the condition which Mr. Fitzmaurice was asked to face and to change. Of course it is impossible to go into details in writing of such matters; but it is impossible not to express the highest admiration for the persistency, patience, and skill with which Mr. Fitzmaurice has brought this about.

As a matter of policy Mr. Fitzmaurice has made the Commission seem prominent. Any other policy would have meant instant slaughter to all who turned back to Christianity. But it is no less true that but for Mr. Fitzmaurice's skill the undertaking would have failed utterly. The Birejik Christians recognize this cordially, and manifest their feeling by speaking of Mr. Fitzmaurice as "our second Saviour."

The situation in the Roum Kala Caza, was not so difficult. Here, however, in Ourfa it is much more difficult, because it is impossible to assert here that the people were forced to become Moslems to the degree that it can be asserted for Birejik. The work here is not yet finished, but it is impossible to speak too highly of Mr. Fitzmaurice's efforts to bring it to a successful close.

Miss Shattock has had a call from a Moslem from Birejik, who is friendly to the Christians, and who has seen Mr. Fitzmaurice a good deal at Birejik. He said to Miss Shattock, "The Lord chose him especially for this work. I will not say he is one of ten thousand; I believe he is the one man in all England who could do what he has done."

The general situation is very bad, great trouble may yet come. If, however, it does come, it will not be because Mr. Fitzmaurice has not done all in the power of any man to avert it.

No. 19.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 776.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1896.

My Lord,

THE Minister of Police has informed Mr. Marinitch that, in spite of the exhortations given by the police authorities, the poorer Armenian porters and labourers refuse to resume their work in view of the hostile attitude of their Mussulman competitors (principally Kurds), and that he has consented to allow those among them who wished to leave for the provinces or abroad.

The Head of the Passport Office has consequently been instructed to issue passports to all Armenians applying for them through Her Majesty's Consulate on production of a "hamidié" (certificate of registration).

Those whose "hamidiés" have been lost during the recent disturbances will also receive passports on Mr. Wrench's making an official declaration to that effect in the list furnished by him to the Passport Office.

Passports will be withheld from any Armenians who are known to the police to have been mixed up in the recent revolutionary proceedings.

Nazim Pasha has declared emphatically that all well-to-do Armenians are perfectly at liberty to leave the country as heretofore, and that the necessary orders have been given to the Passport Office. He merely advises some of them to postpone their departure, in order not to increase the prevailing uneasiness.

His Excellency further informed Mr. Marinitch that he learnt with regret, from various sources, that in spite of his repeated orders to the contrary, several cases had occurred of the police arresting innocent Armenians on mere suspicion, and refusing to release them without payment of backsheesh. Nazim Pasha added that he took very severe measures for punishing the culprits, and requested to be informed of any such cases which might be brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 20.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 777.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 759 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Table drawn up by Mr. Devey, showing the prisoners sentenced or being tried by the Special Tribunal instituted in connection with the recent massacres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

TABLE showing the Prisoners sentenced or being tried by the Special Tribunal instituted in connection with the recent Massacres.

Name of Case.	Description of Accusation.	Number of Prisoners.	Article of Code applied.	Nationality.			Sentenced.	Date.	Remarks.
				Moslem.	Jew.	Armenian.			
Mesiki Pharmacy ..	Armenian hammals, &c., firing on police and soldiers, August 27	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	No information.
Fundukhian Han ..	Bomb-throwing and firing on troops on August 27. (Manuel, of aiding and concealing)	9	54 121	..	..	4 5	15 years' penal servitude 2 years' imprisonment (by majority)	Sept. 17 ..	
Vitalis Han	Ditto (killing and wounding)	5	54 App.	..	..	5	Death (by majority) ..	.. 16 ..	Pending.
Kharaebji Han ..	Three (Artin, Sarkis, and Ohannès) of sedition and firing on soldiers; six others of seditious complicity	9	..	..	..	9	.. ..	.. ..	
Jellal Bey Han ..	Throwing bombs at police, and sedition	22	..	..	..	22	9 months' imprisonment (by majority)	Sept 21 ..	Ditto.
Three Lez Kaikjis ..	Possession of stolen objects ..	3	230	..	3	..	1 year's imprisonment ..	.. 19 ..	
Israil	Ditto	1	230	..	1	..	.. ..	.. ..	Ditto.
Hussein	Ditto	1	..	1	..	..	.. ..	.. ..	Ditto.
Bekir	Ditto	1	..	1	..	..	Acquitted ..	Sept. 22 ..	
Begiji Mehmed ..	Ditto	1	230	..	..	1	4 months' imprisonment (unanimously)	.. 24 ..	
Suleiman	Ditto	1	230	1	..	..	.. ..	.. ..	
Four cooks of Alvan Serai	Ditto	4	..	4	..	..	.. ..	.. ..	Ditto.
Vasili Hagob and another	Wounding Jafar Izzet Daud Pasha ..	2	..	..	..	2	Acquitted by majority ..	Sept. 23 ..	No information.
Three Peanuts Hammals	Being aware of sedition beforehand ..	3	..	..	..	3	Acquitted	.. 15 ..	
Bekir and Osman ..	Murder of a wounded Armenian ..	2	..	2	..	..	.. ..	.. ..	Pending.
Leon, shoemaker ..	Sedition. (Accused charges "Moarif" with menaces with malice)	1	58, § 2	..	..	1	3 years' imprisonment ..	Sept. 21 ..	
Hosein, son of Hampartsoum	Firing with revolver near Soulou Monastir ..	1	..	..	..	1	.. ..	.. ..	Ditto.
G A policeman	Murder of an Armenian	1	..	1	..	..	Acquitted	.. ..	No information

No. 21.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 778.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting a conversation with Shakir Pasha on the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Mush, September* 15, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Commission of Superintendence under Shakir Pasha left for Bitlis on the 11th instant. It was to stay in Bitlis only a day or two and then proceed to Van. Shakir Pasha proposed to remain some weeks in the Van Vilayet and then return to Bitlis. I hope to converse with him in Bitlis on the affairs of this vilayet more fully than I have yet done.

I had a conversation with him here on the 10th instant.

He said that in Mush the prison itself was unsatisfactory, but that the Governor of the prison and his staff were working satisfactorily, and that there did not appear to be any prisoners who were being detained improperly or for an undue length of time.

These statements are in general confirmed by what I have heard from an independent and trustworthy source.

The Judicial Inspectors have not yet been in Mush, but are expected to come shortly.

Shakir Pasha said he had decided that there should be three nahiés in the Caza of Mush. The election of Mudirs would be proceeded with in accordance with the scheme of reforms as soon as his decision was confirmed in Constantinople. He said that his arrangement complied with the rule that no village in a nahié should be at more than three hours' distance from the central place of the Mudir's Administration, and he further said that an advantage of economy would be secured by having only three nahiés instead of a large number (see Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson's despatch of the 10th June last). I may mention that the Armenians also seem to think that a large number of nahiés would be only a burden.

His Excellency dwelt on the confusion that he had found in the finances of the sandjak. He said there 28,000,000 piastres of arrears of taxes for the sandjak, including 1,500,000 piastres for the town of Mush alone. He would suggest that the population might be set to construct much needed public works, such as bridges and Government buildings, so that out of their wages they might clear off arrears.

He would make arrangements that gendarmes should no longer be employed in collecting taxes. In this connection I may mention that some more tahsildars, including some Christians, have been appointed within the last few weeks (see Mr. Hampson's despatch of the 1st June last).

He said that the Bekivanli Kurds—the only nomads who had been giving trouble in this sandjak of late—had already been quietly escorted out of the sandjak by a sufficient military force. This statement appears to be substantially true.

He said the moment was not thought opportune for the appointment of Christian Mouvins in this sandjak. He had decided that 26 per cent. of the gendarmerie should be Christian, and that vacancies in the gendarmerie should be filled by Christians as they occurred until this percentage was reached.

The question of Christian gendarmes is, however, still pending here, and as it seems to illustrate the manner in which the authorities of the sandjak are dealing with the reform scheme, I venture to give the following details. They are, I believe, accurate, though derived from a source which might be suspected of partiality:—

It appears that a Committee of the "Idare Medjliss" of the sandjak was formed to deal with the enrolment of Christian gendarmes, the Committee consisting of the Mutessarif, a Mussulman member of the Medjliss, and Ohannes Aga, the outspoken and intrepid Armenian member (see Mr. Hampson's despatch of the 12th May last).

On the 10th instant Ohannes Aga was called upon by the Mutessarif to sign a Mazbata stating that 26 per cent. of the gendarmerie should be Christian, "according to the proportion between the populations of the sandjak." He refused to sign, as the true proportion was at least 50 per cent. Christian. Shakir Pasha ordered another and more comprehensive Mazbata to be substituted for the one which Ohannes refused to sign, and on the 12th instant a long Mazbata was brought to Ohannes less than an hour before the departure of the post for Bitlis. He said he must read it before signing, but he was told he must sign it on trust, as the Mussulman member of the Committee had done. He declined to do so, and thereupon the Mutessarif told him he was dismissed from his position as member of the Medjliss and of the Committee.

He replied that he was very glad to be relieved of his functions, and withdrew, and the signature of another Armenian, Avedis Aga, a poor and insignificant person, was obtained, quite irregularly as it would seem, and so the Mazbata was sent off to Bitlis.

What is in the Mazbata no one seems to know except the Mutessarif and his Secretary. It is supposed to contain provisions for the nomination of tahsildars and gendarmes.

Large numbers of Armenians are, it seems, anxious to become gendarmes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

P.S.—According to Shakir Pasha stringent orders have been received by the civil and military authorities here since recent events in Constantinople to repress any disturbance with severity and impartiality. So far as I can learn, all seems quiet here at present.

J. H. M.

No. 22.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 779. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting M. Prjévalsky's observations on Shakir Pasha's Mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 17, 1896.

THE following particulars as to Shakir Pasha's movements since he left Erzeroum on the 2nd May last, which I have gathered in the course of conversation from M. Prjévalsky of the Russian Consulate-General here, may prove of interest to your Excellency. M. Prjévalsky accompanied Shakir Pasha to Erzinghian, and subsequently to Sivas, Malatia, and Kharput, returning thence somewhat unexpectedly to Erzeroum.

On my inquiring why the original programme had not been adhered to, according to which Shakir was to have proceeded from Erzinghian direct to Kharput, and thence to Van or Diarbekir, he replied that one reason was certainly the difficulty of providing for the heavy expenses of the Mission, amounting to at least £T. 1,500 a-month in the more impoverished provinces. They remained nearly a month at Erzinghian awaiting funds, and left as soon as they had been received. It was known that the disordered state of the Kharput finances made it unlikely that money would be forthcoming there, so it was decided to visit Sivas first, where Shakir Pasha spent another

month engaged in drawing up schemes for the formation of nahiés, and for other reforms, the execution of which remains in abeyance for want of money. As soon as the sum requisite to meet the call for salaries and allowances had been extracted from the Sivas Treasury, the Mission set out for Kharput, which they have since been obliged to leave without obtaining further supplies, the Vali of that province being himself four months in arrears of salary, and M. Prjévalsky supposed that Shakir Pasha's short visit to Bitlis before going to Van, was to be put down to his hope of finding money there, and to the certainty that none would be forthcoming at Van under present circumstances.

Another reason unhesitatingly ascribed by M. Prjévalsky for Shakir Pasha's objection to visiting Van at an earlier date, was his Excellency's knowledge of the condition of affairs there, and his desire to avoid being present during the disturbances which he knew to be almost inevitable, and for which he might be held responsible. His experiences of that nature at Erzeroum had been enough for him, and he seems to have expressed himself pretty frankly on the subject to M. Prjévalsky.

With regard to the practical results of the Mission, M. Prjévalsky showed himself somewhat sceptical. It should be premised that he is not a believer in the possibility, or even the desirability, of introducing such reforms as are sanctioned by the Iradé of the 17th October, 1895, and that his attitude towards the Armenians in particular is unsympathetic and even cynical. To quote his own words, the only result obtained so far has been the appointment of certain Christian Moavins, whose position is such that they can exercise no influence upon the Administration, for good or otherwise. His account of the circumstances under which all action against the Dersim Kurds had been abandoned for the present, was as follows: Shakir Pasha and Raouf Pasha, the Vali of Erzeroum, had both urged the necessity of a punitive expedition against the Dersimlis. This idea was opposed by the Mushir, Zekki Pasha, from the first, and on the arrival of the Mission at Erzinghian, Zekki Pasha explained (as M. Prjévalsky thinks, with a considerable show of reason) that the lawless behaviour of the Dersimlis was due in the first instance to their extreme poverty, and, secondly, to the bad influence of certain of their chiefs. He therefore brought forward a counter-proposal to push forward small columns of troops during the summer, charged to cover the construction of roads, upon which remunerative work for ready-money wages would be offered to the inhabitants, who might thus be weaned from the practice of raiding and brigandage; at the same time small garrisons were to be established at various strategic points for the purpose of holding in check, and breaking the power, of the more dangerous Chiefs; and the cost of these operations was estimated by the Mushir at £T. 100,000. Whichever method had been adopted, a large expenditure of money was inevitable, and none was to be had, so that eventually it was found expedient to postpone all action until "next year," a course which was favoured also by the Vali of Kharput, in whose province the Dersim lies, and who may have been influenced by the visit to Kharput of some of the leading Dersim Chiefs, whose representations, rumour says, were not unsupported by a handsome pecuniary consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 23.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 780.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, reporting that three villages have been looted near Divrigh, and giving some further details of the Eguin massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Sivas, September 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report, in confirmation of my telegram, that the villages Pinguian, Kesme, and Zimara, in the neighbourhood of Divrigh, were attacked and looted by Kurds who had crossed from the Kharput Vilayet after the massacre at Eguin. I have no accurate information as yet as to numbers killed. The Vali states about sixty, and from other sources I believe that the number I gave in my telegram, viz., 100, is not exaggerated. A Turk who arrived here from the Kharput Vilayet, and was present at Eguin during the massacre last Wednesday, gives the following details: A dispute occurred between a Turk and Armenian about some small sum of money, and a crowd collected. The Armenian then paid the money, but threats were made by the Turks, owing to which the Armenians were afraid to open their shops the following day. During the day three Armenians were passing through the bazaar, when they were ordered to stop by some soldiers. They did not. The soldiers then shot the three. The other Armenians fled from the town in considerable numbers. The Kaimakam then telegraphed that the Armenians had risen in arms, and received an answer authorizing him to massacre them. On the following day the soldiers were let loose, and killed every one (male) over 12 years of age, except a few hundreds who had fled. Some Kurds then arrived, but did nothing beyond looting anything left, and every house was ransacked for loot two or three times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 24.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 783.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 30, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 771 of the 28th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, giving further details as to the attack by Turks on Armenians at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant, reporting an attack made by the Turks of this town on the Armenians, which, however, had been repulsed and the movement in general suppressed owing to the promptness and energy displayed by the Vali, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has conferred upon Towfik Pasha the grand cordon of the Mejidié, together with the decoration itself set in brilliants, as a reward for his conduct on that occasion.

I saw the Vali on the 22nd instant, and congratulated him most heartily both on his admirable behaviour on the night in question and on the Imperial recognition which it had received. His Excellency seemed very pleased, more especially at my mention of the complete success of his efforts to quell the disturbance. He acknowledged that at one time he was very anxious as to the ultimate issue of the repeated rushes made by the Turks, but, fortunately, the troops behaved remarkably well, better, I gathered from him, than the zaptiehs and police, two of the former, I hear from another quarter, being under arrest on a charge of having actually encouraged some Turks to arm against the Christians. The Vali also stated that had he not been thoroughly prepared at all points for some such incident at that which actually happened, he would in all probability have been quite unable to hold his own.

As regards the wounded Armenians, only three are still under medical care, the hurts received by the other six (there were *nine* in all, not *ten* as previously stated) being of a more or less insignificant character.

Ali Bey, the professor, who raised the alarm by firing his revolver four times (not *twice* as previously stated), is still under arrest, but I am given to understand that he will shortly be set at liberty, the explanation which he offers for his most unfortunate act being considered by the authorities plausible, and therefore acceptable. He states that in all the chief towns of European Turkey (he being a Roumeliote) it is the universal practice to raise the alarm of fire in this way. This, it appears, is true. At the same time I learn on good authority, in connection with this incident, two facts of which I was previously ignorant. In the first place Ali Bey did not fire off his revolver in front of the burning house, as stated by me in the previous despatch, nor, in the second, did he did so at the commencement of the fire. At the time he fired he was close to his own house, which is some 200 paces off the scene of the conflagration, the latter having then been in progress fully three-quarters of an-hour. In fact, it is very generally whispered about that Ali Bey knew perfectly well what was likely to be the result of his firing, and he is only too disappointed at the failure of his scheme. The authorities, however, more especially the Vali, who, I should mention, assured me that Ali Bey was drunk that evening, do not, for reasons which will be easily understood, take this view of the case.

Vasfi Bey, who killed the Turk as reported in the previous despatch, is still in confinement, being, according to the statement of his medical attendant, practically mad—at all events for the time being.

As regards the Turkish aggressors, I am assured that thirty or thirty-five of them are in prison, the Vali being unable to state the exact number on the ground that every day fresh arrests are being made. His Excellency, I am glad to say, appears determined to make an example of these men in the hope that there may be no more similar trouble in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 25.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 784.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a statement prepared by the Armenian Reform Commission, and given to the chief Dragoman of this Embassy, as well as a Memorandum by Mr. Block on the same. It would appear that this document was drawn up by the Sultan's order to show me what progress had been made in the execution of the reforms.

The only reform which has really been executed since the appointment of the Commission ten months ago is the nomination of Christian assistants to Valis.

In my representations to the Porte and to the Commission I am laying particular stress on the taxation clauses, as the levy of taxes by the police under the old system inflicts great suffering on those large districts which have been reduced to destitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(Extract.)

I INCLOSE herewith a translation of a document given to me by the Commission for Armenian Reforms, showing the result of their work since the constitution of the Commission some ten months ago.

The Sultan had caused me to be informed that this document would be prepared specially to show your Excellency the progress that had been made in this question.

September 30, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Summary of Action taken so far as regards the Reforms decided upon for the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir, Kharput, and Sivas.

(Translation.)

Article 1.—*Mouavins of Valis.*

MOUAVINS to Valis were appointed on the 13th and 20th December, 1311.

Article 2.—*Mouavins to Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams.*

Upon the Mazbata drawn up after examination by the Commission on the 29th May, 1312, as to what places Mouavins should be appointed to, according to the number of the inhabitants, certain communications were exchanged on the point with the local authorities and the Inspector-General. The task of appointing such Mouavins as might be necessary in the places so far decided upon was referred to the Ministry of the Interior on the 22nd August, 1312, as the Commission was informed.

Articles 3 and 4.—*Kaïmakams.*

Upon the appointment of the Commission the circumstances, action, and capacity of the Kaïmakams employed in the six vilayets were examined through the Inspector-General. Up to the present thirty-two persons have been designated to replace certain Kaïmakams whom it was found necessary to change. The documents and service records of these having been examined by the Commission, nineteen who were found suitable were appointed. The rest were rejected, and others appointed. As to the appointment of non-Moslem Kaïmakams, certain communications passed with the Inspector-General upon the Mazbata presented on the 22nd April, 1312, and a Mazbata as to the necessity of such appointment was presented on the 22nd July, 1312.

Article 5.—*Officials of the Administration.*

Instructions were sent on the 9th April, 1312, to the Ministry of the Interior, the Valis, and the Inspector-General, to the effect that after the Commission had established the relative proportion of the inhabitants in each vilayet, non-Mussulmans of the requisite capacity were to be appointed as posts fell vacant, and that these Articles were to be carried out. The Inspector-General has reported, in reply, that at Erzeroum certain officials have been appointed. Fresh orders have been sent to the Valis, dated the 24th August, 1312, directing them to insert, in their monthly Reports which the Commission has decided should be sent to it, what has been done so far, what appointments fell vacant, how they have been filled up, and in general, at the end of each Article of the Reforms, a summary of what has been done. The numbers of non-Moslem police and gendarmes are fixed as the lists are received.

Article 6.—*Administrative Councils in Sandjaks and Cazas.*

Although the Inspector-General has reported, in answer to an inquiry, that these Councils actually exist in accordance with the Article, the Valis were instructed on the 20th March and 4th May, 1312, to see that the election and appointment of the elected members and the fixing of their duties were carried out in complete accord with the Regulations, and the Inspector-General was ordered to superintend and report to the Commission. A further instruction to report what has been done so far was sent on the 28th August, 1312.

Articles 7–16.—*Formation of Nahiés.*

As the formation of nahiés depends, in the first instance, on the fixing of the villages which are to compose them, instructions were sent to the Valis on the 14th and 31st December, 1311, to prepare and send in Tables showing the number of villages in each nahié, their distances, number of houses, and of inhabitants, Moslem

and non-Moslem; and after that to proceed to fix upon the nahiés. Orders were sent on the 17th July, and the 12th August, 1312, to the local authorities to proceed to the formation of nahiés on the basis of the Tables sent in from Erzeroum and Diarbekir, these having previously been examined by the Commission. As to Kharput and Sivas, the local authorities reported, on the 11th March and 27th April, 1312, that they had begun to fix upon and form the nahiés, but the Tables have not yet been received, and fresh orders having several times been sent, a reply has now been received that they will be forwarded. The Tables from Bitlis being found to be deficient were returned with an instruction to send fresh ones on the 26th June, 1312, and have again been called for twice. As to Van, a Vizirial teskereh, dated the 9th May, 1312, has been received by the Commission, stating that in view of certain considerations pointed out by the Vali and Inspector-General, the local authorities had been instructed that the formation of nahiés should be carried out gradually. The Commission was informed on the 22nd May, 1312, that the salaries to be paid by the State in the nahiés to be formed were: Mudirs, 250 piastres and clerks 150 piastres. The Inspector-General has been instructed that though the villages have Moukhtars at present, Article 15 must be carried out after the formation of the nahiés.

Articles 17 and 18.—*Councils of Ancients.*

Although the Inspector-General has reported that Councils of Ancients exist in the villages, yet as their functions of Justices of the Peace are not properly carried out, the Ministry of Justice was requested, on the 29th April, 1312, to draw up Regulations for the judicial functions of the Councils of Ancients, both in nahiés and villages, to be given to them when the formation of the nahié Councils is terminated.

Article 19.—*Judicial Inspectors.*

These were appointed on the 30th November, 1311, and the 24th January, 1311 [*sic*], and in order to insure the execution of the Article in question, copies of the Reports which the Inspectors are required by law to send to the Ministry of Justice every three months, and the lists showing the number of cases in course of settlement will be forwarded to the Commission, who will also be informed of the action taken thereupon by the Ministry. Such Reports as have already been sent in are now being dealt with.

Article 20.—*Formation of Police.*

Lists drawn up by the Inspector-General showing the number, amount appropriated, and proportion, after these had been agreed to by the Commission, and stating the names and places of the officers and privates, Moslem and non-Moslem, have been received by the Commission from Sivas on the 5th August, from Diarbekir on the 9th July, and from Bitlis on the 27th June. These are being preserved. From Erzeroum a report was received dated the 20th July, 1312, stating that four places had not yet been filled up, but that as soon as they were, the lists would be sent in. For Kharput, the number and proportion of police suggested by the authorities had been approved by the Commission, and a Muzbata was presented on the 11th July, 1312, asking that the local authorities should be instructed to send in the lists.

Article 21.—*Police in the Nahiés.*

The Inspector-General had previously reported that as the number of these would be fixed after the formation of the nahiés, they should be appointed when the nahiés are fixed upon. As the nahiés in Erzeroum and Diarbekir have been fixed, he was, on the 6th July, 1312, instructed to appoint the police.

Articles 22 and 23.—*Gendarmes.*

The gendarmerie of each vilayet has been reorganized in accordance with the Articles of the schedule of Reforms, and with local requirements, and is in course of formation after the lists have been sent here, and the proportion and cost examined and approved. The gendarmeries were approved by the Commission: for Sivas, on

the 20th April, 1312; for Diarbekir, on the 10th June, 1312; for Van, on the 19th June, 1312, and for Kharput, on the 24th July, 1312. For the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Sivas, the Inspector-General reported previously that the gendarmerie was in course of formation, but as it is not yet finished, he was instructed to complete it on the 15th and 29th July, 1312. Orders were sent to Kharput to enrol and employ the gendarmerie on the 22nd August, 1312. The list from Bitlis has not yet been received, but has been called for twice, and is now on the road.

Article 24.—*Gardes Champêtres.*

Instructions have already been sent to the Valis and the Inspector-General to ascertain and report the views of the Councils of Nahiés, when formed, for the appointment of these; Regulations setting forth their duties have been prepared, and are being examined by the Council of State.

On the 22nd June, 1312, the Inspector-General was asked to report on the fitness of the arms and uniforms decided upon for them by the Ministry of War.

Article 25.—*Prisons and Houses of Detention.*

On the 29th April, 1312, the six Valis and the judicial authorities were informed, after communication with the Ministry of Justice, of the existing Laws and Regulations on prisons and houses of detention, and instructed to see that these were fully carried out. The Judicial Inspectors and Inspector-General were also ordered to insert in their Reports all that they had witnessed on inspection.

The Reports received from the Judicial Inspectors are being dealt with.

Article 26.—*Courts of Preliminary Investigations.*

Though the Valis and Inspector-General report that these Courts have been formed, it is found that some doubt exists as to their functions. Instructions were accordingly sent to the Valis and the Inspector-General on the 20th and 25th March, 1312, giving the desired explanations, and ordering that these functions should be exercised regularly. Moreover, on the 24th August, 1312, the Judicial Inspectors were instructed to inspect them and insert the results in their Reports to the Commission.

Article 27.—*Inspection of Kurdish Tribes.*

The Valis and Inspector-General had previously been instructed as to the measures regarding the journey and return to summer and winter quarters, and the replies have been received. From Erzeroum it is reported that these measures were carried out at the proper season; from Diarbekir no Report has yet been received. The prohibition of carrying arms is found to be insufficient, and it has been decided to order Regulations to be drawn up.

Article 28.—*Hamidié Cavalry.*

The necessary communications for carrying out this Article have been made, by telegraph, by the Porte to the Valis and Inspector-General, by the Minister of War to the local Commandants, and by the Ministry of Justice to the Judicial authorities. The Ministry of War has reported that the Military Regulations mentioned in another Article have been drawn up, and a copy has been sent to the Commission.

Article 29.—*Commission for the Inspection of Titles to Property.*

These Commissions have been formed, and two sets of instructions have been drawn up by the Property Registry Office defining their duties, as also those of four officials to be sent from Constantinople. These are being examined by the Commission.

Article 30.—*Collection of Taxes.*

Although this Article is in accordance with the Regulations actually followed, yet at present there are squadrons of tax collectors among the gendarmes who accompany the Moukhtars and Collectors. In order to obviate the interference of gendarmes and to insure the complete execution of this Article, these squadrons of tax collectors will be abolished, and special officials employed to accompany the fiscal officers for the purpose of collecting. This plan was approved, and after communication with the Inspector-General and the Valis, instructions were given that Tables showing the number of such officials should be drawn up and sent to the Commission, which has received them and reported on the matter in a Mazbata dated the 9th September, 1312. Regulations prescribing the duties of these officials, the form of receipt to be given by them, the functions of Moukhtars and collectors, and in general the complete execution of this Article, have been drawn up by the Commission and submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Article 31.—*Tithes. Forced Labour. Education Budget. Sale of Property.*

The Valis and the fiscal and judicial authorities have been instructed that the provisions respecting tithes must be fully carried out, and that all who disregard them will be held responsible. The Inspector-General has also been ordered to inspect the matter and report on it to the Commission. It has been decided that a method facilitating recourse to the Tribunals for agriculturists shall be adopted. As the Report received from Erzeroum on this year's tithes was insufficient, instructions to report fully on the matter were sent on the 22nd August, 1312. The Report received from the Inspector-General on the methods now in force for forced labour was communicated to the Ministry of Public Works on the 29th May, 1312, with instructions to carry out its suggestions and report. As the Inspector-General reported that the budgets drawn up by the Ministry of Public Instruction were insufficient, they were sent back on the 1st April, 1312, and communications as to their modification are being conducted with the Ministry. Instructions were sent on the 22nd December, 1311, to the Ministry of Justice to give the necessary orders to judicial authorities and the judicial inspectors as to the property of ratepayers.

No. 26.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 785.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Williams respecting the state of the Vilayet of Van.

I am bringing to the notice of the Sublime Porte the condition of the Nestorian districts and the complaints about the Kaïmakam of Shattakh, as reported in this despatch.

I am not, however, disposed to press Mr. Williams' suggestion for a change of Vali. He admits that the present occupant of the post is a good man, and independent information about Saad-ed-Din Pasha, who visited several vilayets as Imperial Commissioner before arriving at Van, represents him as being, in spite of his ability, venal and unscrupulous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Vice-Consul Williams to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, September* 15, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last few days I have had considerable anxiety as to the Nestorians. In June last the Artushi Kurds, a tribe of Nomads, raided the villages of Tayari and carried off a large number of sheep. Then there was the murder of the Bishops by Sheikh Mahomed Sadik, about which so far no serious action has been taken, though I understand there is a frontier Commission of some kind now in Shemdinan. Besides these matters, the Urumar and Shikkak, the latter Persian Kurds, have raided the Nestorian villages in Cawar, and I understand that, in consequence of these raids, a large number of the Nestorians of that region have temporarily taken refuge in Persia. I have represented these matters, and have been assured that the sheep, &c., would be got back. Last week, however, the Tayari men, wearied of the inactivity of the Government, took the law into their own hands and attacked the Kurds, driving off a number of sheep and cattle and killing some men.

A small raid has also been made on Julamerik, and fifty sheep stolen. Troops were at once dispatched with orders to drive back the Tayari tribesmen, and the Kurds if necessary. On Saturday last, in consequence of some rather disquieting news as to the instructions sent to the Commander of the troops in those regions, I had an interview with Saad-ed-Din Pasha, who, I am thankful to say, is the virtual ruler of Van. I pointed out to him, unofficially, that I felt sure that English public opinion would view with great concern any ill-judged measures against the Nestorians. He assured me that there was no intention of doing more than preventing the affair from spreading, and that the stolen property on either side would be returned. He also added that the Artushi Kurds would be intercepted on their way back to Mosul, and that he had already given orders on the subject. However, to make sure, his Excellency at once gave orders to one of his Aides-de-camp to proceed to Julamerik to watch over matters, and he promised me that if the affair were not satisfactorily arranged he would go himself. This morning (Tuesday) a telegram was communicated to me saying that there was no further danger. The Mowin also told me confidentially that it would be all right now. There remains, however, the question of this Sheikh, who must be dealt with in some way if there is to be any peace in that portion of the vilayet.

As regards the Armenian population of the province I have made careful inquiries, and have visited some of the cazas. I am of opinion that the number of villagers massacred by the Kurds during the late disturbances at Van amounts to about 3,500; the number of killed in the town being only 500, in addition, of course, to the revolutionaries and those who went with them, they being practically all destroyed. The district of Shattakh suffered most severely, even the houses at the seat of Government being nearly all destroyed. The Kaïmakam of that district is most culpable, and should most certainly be removed. The villages round Arjisch have also suffered terribly, and I am informed that large numbers of the inhabitants have abandoned their homes and fled to Persia.

As regards the actual condition of the people, I am of opinion that the plentiful harvest will enable most of them to get through the winter; but the paucity of cattle will sadly reduce the autumn sowings, thus further pauperizing these poor people, and reducing the amount of taxes which it will be possible to collect next year. Besides the townspeople who suffer by the almost total cessation of trade, help, if forthcoming, will be required for the districts of Shattakh and Cartchekan, and also for Moks, which has not suffered at all, thanks to the protection afforded by a Kurdish Chief. This district and Shattakh are always in trouble, as there is little good land. The people of Moks are accustomed to seek work at Diarbekir, while the Shattakh people are manufacturers of cloth. Money, however, though it may alleviate suffering, does not meet the case. Those among the Armenians, in whose opinion I have most trust, tell me that if confidence were once established, the recuperative power of the people, which is very great, would soon manifest itself, and charity would no longer be necessary. The present Vali, a most estimable man, is unfitted by training and constitution to rule over such a vilayet as this. It is no time for theories. The Armenians are living under the shadow of the sword. Revolutionaries are known to be on the Persian frontier preparing an attack on the Kurds. There are three or four here, and

only a short time ago they had the audacity to fire several pistol shots in broad daylight at one of their compatriots in the streets of Van. The hatred of the Kurds towards the Christians is intense, and they openly say that they can no longer live together. A strong soldier with full powers is required at the head of affairs, and not a religious devotee in bad health like our present Vali. Saad-el-Din Pasha is here. He is liked by the Turks and feared by the Kurds, while the Armenians would gladly welcome his appointment. He is, of course, not perfect, but he is at all times willing to listen to reason. The Monvin and he are great friends, and they would work well together. I feel certain that his appointment, which would probably be favourably viewed by His Imperial Majesty, would be the saving of this vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 27.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 786.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1896.*

AS your Lordship is aware, the "Jeune Turquie" party have often tried to enlist the sympathies of the religious sections of Turkish society by arguing that the present Sultan ought to be deposed from the office of Caliph, either on the ground that the ex-Sultan Murad has recovered his reason, and has a right to resume the functions of which he was only provisionally deprived, or on the ground that the office, being theoretically elective, may be taken away by those who conferred it.

At present a pamphlet is being circulated among the Hedjas and Softas of the capital, which professes to contain a series of decisions pronounced by competent authorities as to the circumstances under which a Caliph may be deposed or killed.

I inclose a Memorandum of Mr. Eliot on this work, which appears to have been written in the interests of Reshad Effendi, the present Sultan's brother, or some of the younger Princes, and not in those of the ex-Sultan Murad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Memorandum by Mr. Eliot.

THE pamphlet describes itself as "Fetvas issued by the Ulema of Islam," and the title-page adds that, as its contents are all based on the Koran, no Moslem has the right to call it seditious, or forbid its introduction into Moslem countries.

A fetva is a judicial or religious opinion given by an authorized person. In Arabic-speaking countries any opinion of a Mufti or Kadi is called a fetva, but in Turkey the name is most commonly applied to the decisions of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, whose official residence is called the Fetva-hanesi, or House of Fetvas. The Sheikh-ul-Islam, however, has no initiative or discretionary power in issuing fetvas. On a question being put to him, he is bound to cause certain books to be searched, and to publish the result with his official imprimatur, which makes the decision law in a Turkish Sheri Court. He merely guarantees that the fetva gives the opinion of the authorities who ought to be consulted on the subject, but he has no power to express his own views, as the Sunnite sect of Mohammedans hold that there is no authority living who has a right to form an original opinion on any point of law and religion, and that the collection of traditions called the "Sunna" is final and complete. The Persians, on the other hand, admit the existence of learned men, called Mujtehids, who have the right to offer an independent opinion.

From the Sunna, which is exceedingly voluminous, have been compiled collections of fetvas for the use of the Sheikh-ul-Islam and other legal functionaries. The fetvas in the pamphlet profess to be extracts from these works, and, if genuine, would have at least for Hedjas, Mollahs, &c., almost the same value as a fetva of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. They would argue that if any one dared to put the question to the Sheikh, he would have to answer as in the printed fetva. As the Sheikh-ul-Islam is merely a creature of the Palace, and has a purely official and not a sacred character, he is usually held in small esteem by those who have pretensions to sanctity.

I doubt if all the fetvas in the pamphlet would stand searching criticism, as there is considerable vagueness in some of the references. I am told, however, that the work is being circulated among the Hedjas of Stamboul, and that it has found especial favour among the Dancing Dervishes, one of whom is said to have taken a copy to Reshad Effendi, the heir-apparent.

I append abridged translations of a few of these fetvas. To render them intelligible, I should explain that a fetva generally consists of (1) a carefully prepared question, usually contrived so as to admit of the answer "Yes" or "No;" (2) of an answer which, if it goes beyond these limits, is usually very laconic; (3) of references to the Sahihu 'l Bukhari or other works of the Sunna. The question is put in general terms, no real names being mentioned. The person complained of is called Zeid, and the person who seeks redress Amer, like John Doe and Richard Roe in English law:—

1. *Q.* If Zeid, the Commander of the Faithful, causes a state of things injurious to Moslems and subversive of religion, has the (Moslem) community the right to depose him?—*A.* Yes.

References to the book called Redd-ul-Mukhtar.

2. *Q.* If the continuance of Zeid, the Commander of the Faithful, in the office of Caliph is disastrous for the nation, and an attempt to depose him would also provoke dissension but still be relatively less harmful than his continuance in office, which is likely to bring about the annihilation of the nation, may Moslems proceed to depose the said Zeid without regard to the dissension which his deposition might produce?—*A.* They may.

Quotation from the Redd-ul-Mukhtar.

3. *Q.* If the Mussulman world, or a part of it, object to Zeid, the Commander of the Faithful, continuing to hold the office of Caliph, is it permissible for Zeid to continue to hold that office?—*A.* No.

Reference to the Hadis.

Abu Bekr, the first Caliph, said, the day after his election: "Does any one object to me? If so, I will at once resign."

4. *Q.* If Mussulmans object to Zeid continuing to hold the office of Caliph, and Zeid, knowing that they object, does not resign, is it permissible to kill Zeid as an usurper?—*A.* It is necessary.

Various quotations follow.

5. *Q.* If Zeid, the Caliph, leaves the straight road and turns aside to violence and tyranny, and is therefore hated by Moslems and knows he is so hated, but, instead of resigning as he ought, surrounds himself with an armed force and creates dissension among Moslems, what ought the Moslems to do?—*A.* They ought to arm themselves and exterminate him and the crew who surround him.

This fetva is not supported by quotations, and probably could not be.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

October 1, 1896.

No. 28.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 788.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1896.*

ABOUT ten days ago it appeared that the Sultan was desirous of coming to terms with his Armenian subjects and of granting them certain concessions. It was arranged through Artin Pasha that a loyal Address should be presented by the Armenian Notables and clergymen, in return for which His Imperial Majesty would promulgate and execute the reforms. Hopes were also held out of a general amnesty.

The Address (transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 768 of the 28th September) was duly presented with 200 signatures, but at the last moment other counsels prevailed. It would appear that it was decided on the afternoon of the 21st September to immediately appoint Christian adjoints to the Mutessarifs and Christian Kaïmakams and to publish an official Notification to this effect in the newspapers of the 22nd. In the evening, however, the Sultan reversed his previous orders, no Notification was published, and the Armenian community were informed that a further expression of loyalty and contrition was necessary. There is every indication that His Majesty has determined to make no

concessions whatever and to force the Armenians into entire and unconditional submission.

A new feature which has appeared in the last few days is the arbitrary arrest without warrant or any specific accusation, of wealthy Armenians. Hitherto the police had occupied itself almost exclusively with the porters and other members of the poorer class, but now some thirty bankers and merchants have been unexpectedly arrested, and are detained at the Ministry of Police. The best known is a certain Apik Effendi Oungian, who had transacted much important financial business for the Government. Some of my colleagues are inclined to believe that the object of these arrests is chiefly to levy blackmail, and even assert that the Grand Vizier has demanded 30,000*l.* ransom from Apik Effendi. I am, however, disposed to think that the action of the authorities aims chiefly at spreading terror among all classes of Armenians. Probably, all the persons arrested had received letters from the Hintchag or other Societies, demanding subscriptions, which cannot fairly be considered as a proof that they sympathized with those Bodies.

Meanwhile, the *locum tenens* of the Patriarchate and a small section of the Armenian community headed by Nourian Effendi are prepared to submit to the Sultan, without any equivalent such as the execution of reforms or election of a Patriarch. Though this party are hated by all sections of Armenians and openly called traitors, their influence seems to be in the ascendant at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 29.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 789.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 733 of the 16th September, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a third letter which I have received from the Armenian Revolutionary Society called "Dachnaktzoutune."

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie by the Armenian Revolutionary Society called "Dachnaktzoutune."

Péra, le 18 (30) *Septembre*, 1896.

Excellence,

LES arrestations continuent; les Tribunaux d'injustice s'acquittent fort bien de leur devoir d'extermination des Arméniens; les cachots sont engorgés de milliers d'innocents dont le seul tort est d'être Arménien.

Et comme si la faim, les maladies épidémiques n'auraient pas suffi, les tortures les plus horribles sont réservées à tous ces détenus. Tandis que tous les Arméniens sont poursuivis en foule, les vrais malfaiteurs, les Kurdes sauvages, loin d'être punis, sont chargés de la sécurité (?) des quartiers; quelle ironie!

Malgré toutes les assurances et les promesses du Grand Vizir, malgré la fameuse Circulaire adressée aux Valis, le massacre d'Eghin vient de révéler encore une fois de plus, aux yeux du monde civilisé, la sauvage politique du Hamid le Bourreau.

Après avoir lancé notre Proclamation du 14 (26) Août et notre office en date du 16 (28) même mois nous avons, patiemment attendu la nouvelle direction qu'aurait prise la diplomatie Européenne à l'égard de la cause sacrée de notre malheureuse patrie.

Nous savions très bien qu'on n'aurait pu dans un bref délai accomplir d'importantes réformes, aussi avons nous espéré pour le moment de mesures palliatives de nature à cicatriser les plaies, à prévenir les nouvelles atrocités, à défendre les innocents et en même temps d'empêcher l'émigration qui coincidera avec l'hiver qui s'approche à une mort certaine la plupart de ces malheureux enfants.

Hélas! pas une seule mesure, excepté peut-être, l'exposition des bombes à Tophané, pour aiguiser davantage le fanatisme des Musulmans.

Aussi croyons-nous de notre devoir de signaler, pour la dernière fois, à l'attention de votre Excellence que c'est imminemment dangereux de jouer avec les destinées d'une nation beaucoup plus antique et beaucoup plus civilisée que ses agresseurs, et arrivée déjà au bout de sa patience séculaire. Ce n'est pas une menace, c'est une loi historique qu'il ne faut pas dédaigner.

Nous, gens d'action, nous avons toujours préféré l'œuvre à la parole. Notre dernier mot. Vous l'avez dans notre Proclamation.

(Seal.)

P.S.—Nous croyons de notre devoir de réfuter catégoriquement que jamais les Fédéralistes n'ont manifesté aucune intention de faire sauter les Ambassades de Constantinople comme se plaisent à répandre les journaux Arménophobes; l'absurdité de la nouvelle est trop évidente pour la discuter, vu que jusqu'à présent nous avons toujours nourri quelques espérances dans l'intervention de l'Europe aux affaires d'Arménie.

No. 30.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 301. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 1, 1896.*

IN a conversation I had on the 29th ultimo with Baron von Marschall, his Excellency alluded to the agitation in England on the Armenian question. A similar agitation had been started in Germany, but he very much doubted whether it would in any way advance the cause of the Armenians. He thought that violent abuse of the Sultan was more likely to indispose him towards the Armenians, and speeches such as Mr. Gladstone had recently delivered did not afford any practical solution of the question. Personally, he was of opinion that the Armenian Committees were very greatly to blame, as, by their revolutionary proceedings, they had brought about the recent massacres in Constantinople. Horrible as these massacres had been, it would seem that the Sultan was still master of the situation, and his orders had been at once obeyed when he had made up his mind to restore order; but he had employed a most dangerous weapon when he appealed to the fanaticism of the Mussulman population. It was true that in the present instance the fanaticism was rather of a national than of a religious character, and was directed against the Armenians in respect of their nationality and not in respect of their religion, but if the fanatical feeling of the Mussulman population were once seriously excited, there would be the danger of its extending to all Christians without respect of nationality, and even of being turned against the Sultan himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 31.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 282.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 724 of the 11th ultimo, forwarding copies of despatches from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah relative to robberies committed by Bedouins on the Mecca road.

Mr. Mohammed Husain calls attention to the growing insecurity of the road, and states that no notice is taken by the Vali of the Hedjaz of letters addressed to him by the Consulate in regard to the claims of British Indians who have been robbed by the Bedouins, and other matters concerning British subjects.

I should wish your Excellency to address an earnest remonstrance to the Turkish Government on the subject of the attitude of Ahmed Ratib Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 283.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1896.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 683 of the 29th August relative to the state of affairs in the Hedjaz.

I request your Excellency to inform Mr. Alban that I have read with interest his excellent report on the situation in that province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 298.)
Sir. *Foreign Office, October 7, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 757 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Koniah relative to the expulsion of a number of Armenian families from the village of Silla.

I should be glad to be informed whether you have had an opportunity of making representations to the Turkish Government on this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 34.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 299.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 8, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 775 of the 29th ultimo calling attention to Mr. Fitzmaurice's services in connection with the Commission of Inquiry into the forced conversions of Armenians to the Moslem religion.

I fully recognize the excellence of the work accomplished by Mr. Fitzmaurice, and I request you to inform him that Her Majesty's Government much appreciate the services he has rendered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 35.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 425.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 9, 1896, 11·45 A.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that he has received information that the situation at Aintab is again very serious. The Vali assures him that all necessary steps have been taken to prevent disorders, and the Mushir has been sent there for this purpose.

No. 36.

Consul Alvarez to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Benghazy, October 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that three or four days ago the Armenians whose names are given below were sent for to the Castle, and informed by the Chief Commissioner of Police that, in consequence of orders received from Constantinople to that effect, they were required to quit Benghazy by the first opportunity (a week being the extreme limit of time granted them to wind up their affairs), and not to remain upon Ottoman soil. They all, with the exception of one of them, Aghob, son of Kircor, who has been established here for some time, consented to leave Benghazy by the first steamer of the Courjy line calling at this port. Aghob refused to do so, saying that he had money due to him, which would require, at the very least, a fortnight to obtain, and that he would require time in which to dispose of his stock of goods. He was thereupon arrested. The police sealed up his shop, and he was detained until to-day, when he was released on binding himself to leave Benghazy by the next steamer in a week's time. The other Armenians, who leave for Canea to-day, have, I believe, inhabited Benghazy only since the massacre at Constantinople of last year, or that of Canea in May last, and had hitherto escaped the wave of persecution to which their fellow countrymen have been subjected in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN ALVAREZ.

LIST of Armenians who have been expelled from Benghazy and from Ottoman soil.

1. Aghob, son of Kircor, age 30, mercer.
2. Avedis, „ „ „ 20, hawker.
3. Boghos, „ „ „ 17, „
   The above three are brothers.
4. Stepan, son of Kircor, age 20, grocer.
   No relation of the three preceding.
5. Avedis, son of Kevork, age 18, grocer, } brothers.
6. Nerses, „ „ „ 16, „ }
7. Passegh Essayan, age 25, dealer in prints.

No. 37.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 790.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 5, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah reporting on the unsafe state of the roads in the Hedjaz and on fresh robberies which have been committed in the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Acting Consul Mohammed Husain to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, September 15, 1896.*

REFERRING to my despatch of the 17th ultimo I have the honour to state that the state of the roads in the Hedjaz, without a single exception, is getting so unsafe that communication has become quite impossible in certain parts of the country, and, consequently, the provisions are selling at a famine rate. Since I reported last about this matter several robberies have been committed on the roads between Jeddah and Mecca. But the atrocities committed by the robbers in the two robberies which took

place on the 2nd and 11th instant have no parallel in the past. The place of occurrence in the first instance was very near to Mecca, and the caravan of fourteen camels carrying almost all Indian pilgrims was attacked by a large band of Bedouins.

The night being very dark, owing to its being cloudy, the robbers were not seen and even not suspected by the passengers when of a sudden the robbers, who were hidden by the side of the road, made a sudden rush, and the passengers (many of whom were sleeping) riding in shugdufs found themselves within the grasp of one or two of the Bedouins who had jumped into each of the shugdufs with drawn scimitars The passengers being quite helpless in the hands of these merciless ruffians were stripped of everything, and some who offered any resistance were severely cut and mutilated. The two camelmen who were with the caravan absconded at the time of attack, and were not seen by the passengers till the next day. Some of the Indian pilgrims who came to this Consulate to complain about the treatment they had received at the hands of the robbers stated that everything was taken from them, even the clothes they were wearing at the time, and all of them, male and female, young and old, were left without a shred of clothes on their bodies, and when the robbers retired after finishing their task they (passengers) had to search and collect the pieces of cloth which were torn and scattered all about the place in order to conceal their nakedness.

Two hours after the occurrence four soldiers came from the fort which was less than a mile from the place of occurrence and assisted the robbed passengers in collecting and securing the camels which were running about, and in the meantime some bundles of clothes and other valuables, which, in the confusion, were missed by the robbers, were found and picked up by the soldiers. These bundles, though repeatedly asked for by their owners, were not given to them, and were taken away by the soldiers to the fort.

I have sent the petition of the pilgrims who were robbed and beaten in this robbery to the Kaimakam, stating the loss of each pilgrim separately, and have also wired and written to his Excellency the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, but have received no reply.

The second robbery which took place on the 11th instant on the same road was also of the same nature as described above, with only this difference that the number of camels in this caravan were thirty and all the passengers were Javanese and Dutch subjects. The robbers were so merciless in their atrocities that they even stripped females and young children of all their clothes, and these poor helpless creatures had to beg for little pices of clothes to cover their nakedness from the passengers who were passing the road the next morning.

Caravans cannot travel now at night, and the days being very warm the communication between Jeddah and Mecca is stopping altogether. I have come to know from the British Indian and other merchants that the road between Yambo and Medina is closed for a month, and some of the pilgrims who wanted to go to Medina viâ Yambo had to return to Jeddah on account of the roads being closed. The provisions which are to be carried to Medina from Jeddah viâ Yambo are all lying at the latter place, and cannot be sent further than that. The necessities of life are selling at extremely high rates at Medina, and it is feared that if the matters continue in their present form for a short time there will be great scarcity, and the people will die of hunger and starvation.

The road between Taif and Mecca, also, is very unsafe, and I have received information from reliable source that people cannot travel on that road unless accompanied by a band of hired Bedouins from the Harb tribe.

Yesterday I received information from a very respectable British Indian merchant, who generally takes contracts for the supplies of provisions for the Turkish troops in the Hedjaz, that a special messenger has arrived from the Governor of Medina to inform the Vali that the provisions at Medina were hardly sufficient for twenty days, and unless arrangements were made to send provisions at once the matter will become serious.

As far as I have come to know the cause of all this present trouble is the non-payment of the indemnity promised by the Turkish authorities to be paid to the Bedouins after their attack on Yambo in June last, when some of the Bedouins were killed in the affray between them and the Turkish soldiers.

His Highness the Grand Shereef and the Vali are at Taif, and the latter has assumed such an uncourteous attitude by not replying to communications from this Consulate that I feel convinced that it is quite useless to write to him any more for securing the safety of the roads and the payment of damages for those who are robbed.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that matters are drifting towards a very serious termination, and unless the present Vali, who has sufficiently proved his incapacity for rectifying matters and managing the country, is recalled, and a strong and capable man is sent to replace him, matters will go from bad to worse, and it will be very difficult to rectify them later on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. MOHAMMED HUSAIN.

P.S.—I have the honour to state that after writing the above a British Indian merchant, named Jamaluddin Kotuh, presented an application for the compensation of the loss sustained by him owing to his goods, valuing 1,500 rupees, being robbed in the robbery which was committed on the 11th instant, and this application has been forwarded to the Vali in the usual way.

S. M. H.

No. 38.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 791.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Jerusalem reporting the arrival at Jerusalem of the ex-Patriarch Ismirlian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Acting Consul Jones to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Jerusalem, September* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the ex-Patriarch Mgr. Ismirlian, accompanied by a police officer, arrived at Jaffa on the 12th instant by the steam-ship "Crete," of the "Idarei Mahsoussé" Company, and, having been transferred to the care of the Superintendent of Police, who had been sent from Jerusalem by the Governor to take over the charge of the ex-Patriarch on his arrival at that port, proceeded to the Armenian convent, where he was received by the Prior and remained until the following day, the approaches to the building being guarded during the night by a cordon of soldiers.

On the 13th instant Mgr. Ismirlian left Jaffa under the charge of the Superintendent of Police by the afternoon train, arriving in the evening at the Jerusalem terminus, whence he was at once taken to the Armenian Patriarchate.

I have the honour to add that neither here nor at Jaffa was the ex-Patriarch's arrival attended by any demonstration on the part of the populace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 39.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 795.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo, communicating the text of a warning addressed by the Vali to the Heads of the different communities in that town, warning all people to abstain from disturbances. Mr. Catoni adds that this speech has not materially increased the feeling of security among the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, September* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Saturday last, the 12th instant, the Vali summoned to his official residence the Mussulman Notables, and afterwards the Heads of the clergy of the various Christian communities of Aleppo, and delivered them a speech, the substance of which may be summed up as follows:—

"Since, from the beginning of these Armenian troubles, the object and aim of the disturbances have been to excite and irritate the Moslems, and to oblige them to rise against the Armenians, that it might be shown that the Armenians are the oppressed victims, while the Moslems are cruel and cowardly, and so to obtain for themselves a result both dangerous to the Government and to the country.

"It is the order of the Sultan that no one intermeddle in any disturbance that may take place. To interfere and prevent such disturbance is only the duty of the military powers and of the Government, and if any one, through ignorance, should interfere, be it known that this action, besides being dangerous, is also contrary to law and reason.

"It is also further made known to you that if any one, contrary to these advices and recommendations, should be the cause of any such disturbance, or should interfere in any disturbance that may arise, such an one will be immediately arrested and punished.

"Therefore every one of you must give attention to his own employment, and must not do anything that will disturb the public peace, and furthermore, you must not interfere in military matters, as I have already mentioned."

These declarations and warnings of Raïf Pasha have been severely commented on by the Christian population here, for past experience proves that similar measures on the part of the Turkish authorities are not sincere, having invariably been followed by a rising against the Christians.

The horrible examples of Urfa, Marash, Aintab, Killis, &c., where the authorities succeeded, through Proclamations, promises, and assurances in disarming the Christians, and then not only allowing, but openly participating in their massacre cannot be forgotten so soon.

The general opinion prevailing here among Christians, and even among right-minded Moslems, is that so long as the authors of the recent massacres remain unpunished, confidence cannot be restored throughout this vilayet, and a renewal of disturbances might occur at any time. It would be sufficient, for instance, to expel from the country the prominent leaders in said massacres, condemning them to penal servitude for life, for the restoration of order and confidence among the Christians, impressing thus the turbulent element of the Moslem population with the conviction that hereafter the "axe" as an instrument for carrying out reforms is not in favour in Government circles.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Belfante reports from Alexandretta that some 400 recruits were lately there awaiting a steamer to carry them away, and by their threatening and insubordinate attitude had caused considerable anxiety among the Christian population. They have, however, been finally embarked for Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 40.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 798.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad reporting on the attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the inhabitants of the Tiyari Mountains. I am again bringing to the notice of the Sublime Porte the reports I receive of the condition of the Nestorian community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Consul-General Mockler to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Bagdad, September* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to the reports received from Mr. Rassam, British Consular Agent at Mosul, on the subject of the attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the inhabitants of the Tiyari Mountains, and reasons for such, forwarded for your information with my despatches of the 17th and 20th ultimo, I have the honour to herewith very respectfully forward, for your information, copy (in translation) of a further report, dated the 1st instant, from Mr. Rassam, in which he gives the origin and basis of his former reports.

2. Whether his pessimistic views as to the sentiments held by the Turkish authorities of Mosul towards the Nestorians of Tiyari and others will prove by their action to have a just foundation remains to be seen, but I will report to you by telegraph any such action so soon as Mr. Rassam informs me of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

Mosul, September 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have lately been informed that it was Reshid Beg, the Amir of the Barwarieh tribes and Mudir of the district of Amadieh, who, for the keen hatred he bears against the Nestorian Christian tribes of Tiyari for their complaints regarding the injuries and oppressions they have experienced at his hands (which I have reported in my letters of the 14th November, 1894, and of the 24th September, 1895), had informed the Wilaiat that about 2,000 armed Armenians had gone to the mountains of Tiyari, and he had accused the inhabitants of the said mountains of revolt, and that they had collected arms, and that he had even stated that Mr. Browne, the English clergyman who was there with Mar Shemoon at Cochanis, had caused a large supply of arms to be brought from England and distributed to them, besides other false accusations, and all with the object of throwing the said Christians into immense peril, and to satisfy his wishes by plundering them and taking vengeance. The Wilaiat thereupon made inquiries from Mustafa Selim Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Amadieh, who contradicted such reports in writing, and stated that all were unfounded, but as the authorities are desirous of creating a pretext against the Christians, they have repeated the inquiry from the said Kaïmakam, and last week they informed him that it was proved to them by the evidence of people worthy of credit that the said report (of Reshid Beg) was true, and this as a suggestion to him (the Kaïmakam) to confirm the report in order to give them ground to write to Constantinople, and obtain orders for sending troops and tribes to that country, but the Kaïmakam has not yet replied. Should an answer come, and I obtain information of its contents, I shall lose no time in communicating the same to your honour. His Excellency the Farik Abdullah Pasha, having left Shaklaweh, is now at Suleimanieh.

(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 41.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 799.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul-General at Smyrna, giving information about the emigration of Armenians from Anatolia to Cyprus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Smyrna, September* 30, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of yesterday instructing me to inform you should any vessels leave any port within this Consular district with Armenian refugees for conveyance to Cyprus, and I have taken steps to insure news of such sailings reaching this Consulate-General from the different ports of this seaboard.

In the meantime, I beg leave to add that, your Excellency is no doubt aware, as there has been a certain amount of emigration of Armenians from Asia-Minor to Cyprus all this year.

The refugees have been finding their way down to the coast opposite Cyprus in driblets, and have got away in small sailing-vessels bound to that island.

Since the recent occurrences at Constantinople, Austrian, French, and Russian steamers from the capital to the Syrian coast and to Egypt have been arriving every week with Armenians on board, and I am told that some of them were booked for Cyprus, but I have not been able to determine their approximate number.

I infer, however, that your Excellency desires to be informed of *special* departures of ship-loads of Armenian refugees from the ports of this district, and, unless I am instructed to the contrary, I shall confine myself to reporting only such cases should they occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 42.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 800.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus relating an incident which occurred in the theatre of that town, when an officer rose and pronounced a seditious speech against the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, September* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, a strange incident which occurred here a few days ago. It is noteworthy as showing the drift of public opinion and the extent to which disaffection has spread in the army.

There is a theatre in town which is frequented almost entirely by Turkish officers and Arab Moslems, and during the course of a theatrical representation a Lieutenant of an infantry battalion suddenly rose, and drawing a written document from his pocket proceeded to read a speech to the assembled audience. The contents of this speech were from beginning to end the most uncompromising and outspoken vituperation of the Sultan.

His Majesty was in fact most roundly abused by name, and no opprobrious term which the Turkish language contains was omitted. His actions were adversely criticised, he was characterized as an oppressive and cruel tyrant, and those who submitted tamely to such outrages were not spared.

The police appeared on the scene and attempted to stop and arrest the orator, but the officers, of whom a considerable number were present, interfered and insisted on his being allowed to continue.

The excuse was afterwards made that the Lieutenant was intoxicated, but though that is palpably false, as the speech was written, no steps have been taken against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 43.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 802.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 6, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 769 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further telegram, communicated to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has been addressed to the Ottoman Representatives abroad with regard to the attitude of the Turkish Government towards the Armenian revolutionists.

This telegram states that the Imperial Government has definitively resolved to apply the Armenian reforms, and expresses the confident hope that in consideration of this concession the various Governments will expel from their dominions all Armenian agitators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Tewfik Pasha to Turkish Representatives abroad.

(Télégraphique.)

TOUT en vous faisant connaître par un télégramme précédent l'attitude que le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé d'observer en présence des menées séditieuses auxquelles les révolutionnaires Arméniens se livrent et des troubles qu'ils provoquent, ainsi que les mesures prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre public, je vous avais engagé à solliciter le concours du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité pour empêcher les agissements des dits révolutionnaires en Europe.

Ceux-ci ne cessent un seul instant de se livrer à leurs menées subversives et de répandre des bruits de nature à menacer la sécurité publique, au maintien de laquelle le Gouvernement Impérial consacre tous ses efforts.

Le Gouvernement Impérial tout en avisant aux mesures de police propres à assurer le maintien de la sécurité publique, a référé au Tribunal Extraordinaire le jugement de ceux que l'on dit avoir pris part aux incidents regrettables survenus dernièrement à Constantinople: ainsi que l'application à leur égard des peines édictées par la loi étant donné que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a jamais toléré et ne tolérera pas une pareille intervention ou l'emploi d'une force irrégulière.

Quant aux réformes dont l'introduction dans les six vilayets avait été décidée, le Gouvernement Impérial a résolu d'une façon définitive de les appliquer entièrement et à la lettre. Si quelques-unes des dites réformes ont subi un certain retard, ce retard est dû au fait que les révolutionnaires Arméniens n'ont cessé de susciter des désordres et qu'ils n'ont pas laissé au Gouvernement Impérial le temps nécessaire à cet effet, et ne provient nullement de l'idée de ne pas exécuter les décisions arrêtées.

Néanmoins, des ordres catégoriques ont été donnés à qui de droit pour l'application immédiate de cette partie des réformes, et le Gouvernement Impérial ne cesse de poursuivre cette application. Les faits mêmes prouveront à l'avenir les intentions du Gouvernement Impérial.

Celui-ci aura ainsi, comme je vous l'ai fait savoir par mon télégramme précédent, tenu la promesse qu'il avait faite dans l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Dès lors il est évident que les Arméniens n'ont nullement le droit d'exiger autre chose que l'application des réformes arrêtées d'accord avec les Grandes Puissances pour les six vilayets, et que celles-ci ne consentiront pas à toute autre demande des Arméniens en dehors de ces réformes.

Nous sommes pleinement persuadés que le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité voudra bien prendre en considération les réformes entreprises par le Gouverne-

ment Impérial, et nous donner des preuves de ses sentiments de justice et d'équité en expulsant de son territoire les agitateurs Arméniens, qui ont choisi certains points de l'Europe comme centres de leurs menées, et en adoptant à leur égard les dispositions nécessaires pour avoir fait usage de matières explosibles telles que bombes et dynamite dans le but de se livrer à une œuvre de destruction et de mort, et pour avoir commis d'autres méfaits abominables.

No. 44.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 805.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1896.*

IN reply to my unofficial representations respecting the state of the Hauran (reported in my despatch No. 746 of the 20th September), the Grand Vizier stated that a peaceable settlement had been made with the Druses, who had agreed to pay their taxes without arrears, and to allow their names to be registered as a preliminary to military service. In return the Ottoman Government had given them guarantees for the security of property and honour.

I informed Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus of these statements by telegraph, and have now received from him two reports (inclosed herewith), from which it appears that no arrangement such as that described by the Grand Vizier really exists, and that the Turkish local authorities, being unable to come to terms with the Druses or to subdue them, are endeavouring to hush the question up, and are giving out that the Hauran is pacified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, September 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that for some time past such contradictory rumours and statements have obtained with regard to the Hauran expedition that it is exceedingly difficult to discover the truth. The Druses in the neighbourhood of Damascus know nothing, being quite cut off from their friends.

The officials state that the affair is closed, that the Druses have surrendered, and that the troops are about to be sent back with the exception of eight battalions. The latter statement may be true, but it is quite certain that the Druses have not surrendered *in toto*.

The Commission of Inquiry paid a visit to the Hauran, and remained there ten days, most of the time being occupied in making an imaginary census of the Druses. The members have now returned, and declare themselves satisfied with results which are not apparent.

What is certain is that the Mushir, the Commission, and the Vali are all at loggerheads as to the measures to be adopted, and my own belief is that, finding that they make no progress towards a final solution, they are determined to close the open sore, leaving it to fester underneath and burst out again at a later date.

Private persons coming from the Hauran assert that the Druses openly say that the Government is able to do nothing to them, and that they were never less inclined to surrender. About a fortnight ago some Druses paid a visit to Bosrah-Eski-Sham, and demanded some of their flocks, which were in the hands of the villagers. On meeting with a refusal they attacked the place, killing eight persons, and seizing all the cattle and flocks they could lay their hands on. I was also informed by a Turkish officer that the troops were defeated three weeks since in two battles with the loss of 500 men, but I have no confirmation of this statement.

The Mushir, contrary to what I reported previously, has proved a very incapable leader. He is very slack, careless, and given to intoxication. His troops are in a terrible condition, and it is no wonder that the authorities are anxious to bring the question to a conclusion at whatever sacrifice.

I presume, however, that the reports made to Constantinople will not be exactly in accordance with the true state of affairs.

Thus it appears that the Turks who can carry out no undertaking thoroughly are again going to patch up the business, with results which will probably prove disastrous later on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Damascus, September 25, 1896.*

THOUGH convinced myself that there was no foundation in fact for the statement made by the Grand Vizier to your Excellency to the effect that the Druses had accepted military service and the payment of taxes in return for safety of life, property, and honour, I did not consider myself in a position to contradict the above assertion until I had communicated with the Vali.

In answer to my questions, his Excellency gave me, in confidence, very much the same account that I have already transmitted to your Excellency. He stated that he never made any such report to the Grand Vizier, but that it was possible that the Mushir had done so. About half of the Druses had returned to their villages, while the younger and more hardy portion of the population still refused to come in. They had not accepted military service, nor indeed, as far as he knew, had any precise terms been arranged.

Apart from this statement, it is clear that if the question had been settled, a considerable portion of the troops would have been sent back, whereas hitherto none have returned. But I was lately informed that telegraphic instructions had been received from the Sublime Porte to bring the Druse affair to a settlement at all hazards, and a later telegram had ordered the immediate return of the battalions belonging to the 3rd Army Corps. The official paper of the vilayet has this week a paragraph to that effect, and saying, also, that 400 men of each Redif battalion are to be disbanded.

The situation, then, is this, as I understand it:—

The Mushir was in favour of harsh measures, but has been overruled by the Sublime Porte. The Commission is desirous of making a compromise, but is at a loss how to set about it, while the Vali is incredulous of any good result whatever, but his hands are tied.

The Druses are desperate. They consider they have nothing further to lose, and they maintain a sullen opposition.

If matters are allowed to continue in this fashion the expedition will retire without having effected anything beyond causing a heavy loss of life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 45.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 806.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, inclosing a Proclamation issued by the Vali of that province.

Mr. Block has, by my instructions, read this despatch to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Sivas, September* 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Proclamation of the Wali, written for distribution among the Turks of the province. The Wali has selected certain Notables of Sivas to travel through the province and distribute it, and urge the people to remain quiet. This is their ostensible purpose, but as the men he has selected are all men who are believed to be in favour of exterminating the Armenians, it is probable that they are sent with a view to arrange fresh massacres. The Government has reinforced the garrisons of Divringhi, Gurun, and Darende on the plea of a possible Kurdish attack, but at Eguin, in the Kharput Province, where the massacre took place last Wednesday, there were soldiers amply sufficient to protect the town from the Kurds, and I am informed that, as on previous occasions, the soldiers took part in the massacre, and I am of opinion that in this province, too, the soldiers are being sent for the express purpose of carrying out a massacre, and unless some very strong action is taken in regard to the Kharput Wali for the Eguin massacre, there will be a renewal of the disorders of last autumn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

FOR some years past, owing to false hopes, disorders of all sorts and quarrels with Mussulmans have broken out in all directions, and the tranquillity of the country and the ancient good fellowship between Turks and Armenians has been destroyed by a set of revolutionaries, who have been punished by the Government in accordance with the laws.

However, for the Mussulmans to make reprisals on these revolutionists, for these acts disturbing the peace is entirely contrary to the laws, and accordingly His Majesty both before and recently has ordered that the Mussulmans shall in no case interfere with the Armenians, but in all cases have recourse to the Government when they have any complaint against the Armenians, and now, for the last time, commands again the same thing.

That all will act in accordance with the Firman of His Majesty is beyond doubt, and the Government will be pleased that men of position should advise in this sense, and see that the advice is acted on, and, if not, should inform the Government, but if, contrary to expectation, there should be any who dare to act improperly, the heaviest punishment according to law will be awarded him.

Mussulmans, in any case, will obey to the letter the laws of God, his Prophet, and the orders of the Sultan, and by doing so will, without doubt, bring peace and tranquillity.

No. 46.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 807.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond reporting the continued emigration of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 28, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the emigration of Armenians from this port to Batoum still continues. Since 8th September last, the date referred to in my despatch to your Excellency of the 11th instant, up to yesterday the 27th, no less than 694 Armenians, men, women, and children, have been conveyed to Batoum by the various steamers, Austrian, French, and Italian touching at this port. To these 694 should be added some 120 which are estimated to have left by the small sailing craft plying along the coast.

With the 750 reported in my despatch above referred to it will thus be seen that since the events at Constantinople in August last some 1,564 Armenians have expatriated themselves from this town and its immediate vicinity alone.

One of the chief causes of this continued exodus of Armenians to Batoum, in addition to those alluded to by me in previous despatches, is to be found in the letters received during the past few weeks by Armenians here from their friends in that town begging them to leave at once, as some great event was about to happen. It is not stated of what nature this event is to be, but the warnings as to impending danger have been so frequent during the past few days, and the invitations have been so urgent, that I feel bound to bring them to the notice of your Excellency.

Locally, and apart from the general situation in the Empire, I can see no justification for these alarmist rumours, for there has been no relaxation of the precautionary measures taken by the authorities, and all the information I can gather points to no modification of the peaceable and even conciliatory attitude maintained at present by the Mussulman population.

All this, however, has failed to give confidence to the Armenians, who feel that if their friends at Batoum, whom they credit with the possession of better sources of information than themselves, should prove to be right, it would be upon them first that the consequences of a disturbance would fall, and the remedy to this state of feeling is, as I have had the honour to point in my despatch No. 49, to be found elsewhere than at Trebizond.

From a communication which I have received from Mr. de Cortanze, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, I learn that an attempt at disturbance by certain Turks, promptly suppressed, however, by the Kaimakam, took place on the 20th instant at Tcharshamba, a town situated at a short distance from Samsoon. Mr. de Cortanze promises me further details, which I shall not fail to forward to your Excellency as soon as received.

No further disembarcation of Armenians for the interior has taken place at Trobizond, with the exception of 130 on the 21st of this month, thus making, with those reported in my despatch of the 19th instant, a total in all of 1,800, to which must be added the 1,309 Armenians whose disembarcation at Samsoon has been reported by Mr. de Cortanze.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Mr. de Cortanze to Acting Consul Shipley.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le* 23 *Septembre*, 1896.

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-après une note que je viens de recevoir de Tcharshamba conçue comme suit :—

"Le Dimanche 8 (20) courant entre 2 à 3 heures du matin (à la Turque) les Turcs armés ont pénétré au quartier Arménien, mais grâce aux mesures énergiques prises par le Kaimakam et aux ordres sévères de son Excellence le Mutessarif, le massacre a été épargné, la population effrayée n'ose pas ouvrir ses magasins, d'autant plus que le Mercredi est jour de foire."

J'aurai soin de vous donner d'autres renseignements aussitôt que j'en aurai obtenu.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No 393.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1896.

THE Turkish Ambassador called here on the 30th ultimo and the 8th instant, and was received in my absence by Sir T. Sanderson.

On both occasions his Excellency spoke of the tone of the press and public opinion in this country towards the Sultan, which he characterized as both unfortunate and injudicious.

His Excellency affirmed that the Sultan had done nothing to merit these violent attacks. His Majesty had shown every desire to consider and favour British interests; he was still animated by the same friendly feelings towards this country, and was quite ready to listen to advice tendered in a friendly spirit. It was His Majesty's wish to execute the promised reforms in Asia Minor and extend them to the whole Empire, but for this time was required. It was impossible to carry through such a work in a moment, and the conspiracies of the Armenians and the disturbances created by them greatly enhanced the difficulties of the task.

The Ambassador suggested that it would be better and more politic to try and effect some friendly arrangement with His Majesty on this subject. Any overtures in this direction would, he felt sure, be received with goodwill. The present course of denouncing and threatening him could have no effect but to embarrass and discourage the efforts of the Turkish Government.

Sir T. Sanderson promised to report these observations to me.

He added, however, that the present agitation in England was quite independent of the Government, and had in no way been originated or fostered by them. It was quite beyond control, and was indeed a significant and disquieting symptom of the radical change which had taken place in the feeling entertained towards Turkey in this country. The general public were not to be convinced by mere arguments and considerations of policy. They looked to facts, and the facts unfortunately were altogether against the Turkish Administration. A unique opportunity of regaining public sympathy in England had been lost when the seizure of the Ottoman Bank by a few desperadoes was followed by wholesale massacres, and forty-eight hours were allowed to elapse before any serious effort was made to stop the bloodshed.

Had this not happened, the proceedings of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee would have been generally condemned, and a feeling might have arisen that allowance should be made for the difficulties with which the Turkish authorities had to deal. Public attention had now been entirely absorbed by the horrible occurrences that had ensued, and nothing but some broad and convincing facts in the direction of reformed administration would have any effect in altering the impression that had been produced.

His Excellency inquired if it was not possible to expel Armenians who came to this country if they were proved to have been concerned in the dynamite plots at Constantinople.

Sir T. Sanderson replied that Her Majesty's Government had no powers of expulsion, and that, in the absence of a Treaty of extradition, all that could be done was to keep such persons under surveillance, and prosecute them if there were evidence of their conspiring here to commit dynamite or other outrages.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1896, 12·5 P.M.

MY despatch No. 790 of the 5th instant.

The Acting British Consul at Jeddah telegraphs to me as follows:—

"The authorities have done nothing to insure the safety of travellers on the Mecca road. Robberies are growing more and more frequent. On 12th October a caravan was attacked at only 4 miles from Jeddah, one man was killed, a British Indian subject received several wounds, and another was robbed of 7,000 rupees, and nine camels were carried off. Orders have been issued for caravans to travel by day. The Vali is doing absolutely nothing."

In accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 282 of the 5th October, I have addressed a note to the Porte protesting earnestly against the present condition of things in the Hedjaz.

No. 49.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Sophia, October* 16, 1896.

I HAVE received and repeated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following Secret and Confidential telegram from the British Vice-Consul at Varna with reference to his despatch, of which copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 182 of the 8th instant:—

"I am credibly informed that the Armenian Secret Societies intend to wait until the Emperor of Russia has returned to St. Petersburgh, and to provoke another massacre at Constantinople if their grievances are not then redressed."

No. 50.

Memorandum from a British Resident in Constantinople.—(Communicated by Sir J. Mowbray, Bart., M.P., October 17.)

Constantinople, October 5, 1896.

SUFFICIENT time has now passed since the massacres of the 26th and 27th August to permit a dispassionate idea to be formed of the events themselves, their causes, and their probable results on commercial and private life in Constantinople.

We have made it our business to study the question to the best of our ability, and to obtain information from all sides, and from those whose official and social position best enables them to form a reliable opinion.

As we desire to afford our friends and correspondents every opportunity of judging the position truly and clearly we beg to lay the following résumé of the crisis through which we are passing.

It is unnecessary for us to describe the attack upon the Imperial Ottoman Bank by a band of desperate Armenian revolutionists, and the negotiations which led to the pardon of these miscreants and their departure for France; neither need we speak of the fearful butchery, the cold-blooded massacre of innocent and inoffensive men, and the ruthless pillage and destruction of property which followed, and which (as proved by the most reliable and positive evidence) was permitted, encouraged, and shared in by the Turkish police and soldiery, but was stopped in a moment by one word from the Sultan. Full accounts of all this have been published in the press, and all we need say is that not only these accounts are not exaggerated, but they fail entirely to give an adequate idea of the awful scenes of the week of terror.

Turning to the origin of the attack on the Bank, there is no doubt that it was the work of men made desperate by the wholesale murder of their friends and relations, acting under the orders of a directing Body which, however we may condemn its object, commands our admiration for the completeness of its organization and the singularly able manner in which its work was carried out. The one weak point seems to have been that the bombs and other explosives were somewhat primitive and imperfectly made. Had this not been the case half Constantinople would be in ruins. To what an extent the designs of the Revolutionary Committee were known to the general mass of Armenians inhabiting the capital (about 200,000 souls) it is difficult to ascertain, but there is not the smallest doubt that they were known, and that there was not an Armenian in the place who was not in sympathy with those who, in his ideas, were patriots ready to sacrifice their lives for the good of the cause, and to avenge the fate of their murdered brothers and sisters.

This Armenian population is now decimated by death and imprisonment, but the survivors are more desperate than ever, and it is beyond a doubt that amongst them will be found men who have the will and the ability to plan and execute further attacks on the Turkish Government. Besides those who have been imprisoned (and wholesale arrests continue daily) a large number have left the country for Greece, Egypt, &c., and these may prove the most dangerous of all. They do not find the sort of work to which they have been used (porters, doorkeepers, &c.), and they are unfit for any other. Poverty and starvation must ensue, and with them the desperation which makes good men into Anarchists. On the other hand, we have a Turkish population who have tasted the delights of a wholesale slaughter of their hated and despised fellow-countrymen, and who desire nothing better than to turn their weapons against all aliens. Is it wonderful that the Christian inhabitants of Constantinople live in a state of suppressed panic? that a running man or a galloping horse is sufficient to provoke a general "sauve qui peut" that all business is at a standstill, and the whole community depressed by a feeling of disheartment and hopelessness. Already many shops (besides those owned by Armenians) have closed their shutters sooner than increase their load of debt which is weighing their proprietors down. The more wealthy members of the population are either preparing to leave the country or are living on their capital and waiting events. The business of the banks is nil, and even the Administration of the Public Debt has announced that, as a measure of economy, the posts vacated by the resignation of the Armenian employés will not be filled up. The Government resources are completely exhausted, the Treasury empty, the taxes in great part unpaid, the army has received no money for months, and even the Diplomatic salaries, which up to now have always been received punctually, have not been settled since last November. The Government must obtain money for the food of the army, if not for anything else, and putting aside the idea of another loan as impossible under existing circumstances, funds can only be obtained by laying hands on the revenues ceded to the Public Debt and the guaranteed railways.

In a word, the position is hopeless in every way, the Government bankrupt beyond redemption, all security for life and property lost, business of every kind at a complete standstill, credit impossible, whilst the working power of the country has been weakened by the loss of some 30,000 Armenians (killed, imprisoned, and deported), who formed the most important and trustworthy part of the labouring class of the population.

The question follows—can this state of things be allowed to continue, and to grow worse from day to day? And, if not, how can it be remedied? The reply to this is simple. It can be remedied by a radical change in the Government, and this can only be effected either by the expulsion of the Turks, and the assumption of power by a Christian Government, or by a change of Sultan, and an adequate European control supported by force. No half measures will be of the slightest use, no promised reforms will restore confidence, no good laws (on paper) can give the security of life and property, which is all that is wanted to turn this (at present) hopelessly bankrupt country into the richest and most prosperous in the world, in which hundreds of millions of European capital can be profitably employed, and hundreds of thousands of the surplus population of Western Europe find lucrative work. Will Europe act or will she allow herself to be overawed by Russia whose ever-consistent policy of letting Turkey perish by her own hands is being now pursued more ably and actively than ever? Will France with 120,000,000*l.* (3 milliards) invested in this country allow this money to be lost to her citizens? Will England with 40,000,000*l.* in Turkish stock and railways, and with an important commerce equal to 60 per cent. of the exports and imports, see her money vanish and assist to the ruin of her trade and of those through whose hands it passes? Will Germany, Austria, and Italy, who, if their interests are not equal to those of the two Western Powers, have a huge stake in the country, sit still with their arms crossed while the "unspeakable Turk," aided by his false friend the Russian, goes headlong to his ruin and drags with him all those who have a stake in the country? It is hard to conceive that it will be so, but we who see the indecision and want of understanding of our Ambassadors are beginning to lose all hope, for unless Europe helps us quickly we are lost.

In thus placing before you our views on the situation, we are accomplishing what we believe to be a duty to ourselves and to all those who have any business interests in Turkey. We have exaggerated nothing, and there is not a man in the place who does not feel as we do.

If we have written you at some length on this subject our excuse is that you are interested in Turkish business, and also that we feel that unless public opinion in

Europe is made to fully understand the situation the necessary steps will not be taken to put an end to a state of affairs which, if allowed to continue, can only end in the further slaughter of thousands of human beings, the ruin of financial establishments, and the complete destruction of all commerce.

P.S.—The above was written ten days ago, but has been unavoidably delayed in expedition. Since then massacres of more or less importance have taken place in the provinces and these are likely to continue in certain places. I do not believe, however, that there is any probability of a repetition of the general massacres of last autumn and winter. In Constantinople itself the persecution of the Armenians continues with unabated ferocity, and during the last few days the authorities have turned their attention to the upper classes. Several of the richest and most respected Armenian merchants and bankers have already been arrested on the most frivolous pretexts, and are detained in prison, whilst many others have been subjected to cross-examination, and have had their houses and offices searched, and all go in fear of their lives. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to observe that the more intelligent and better educated part of the Turkish population are more incensed than ever against the bad government of the Sultan, which they openly declare is bringing the country to ruin, and it is beyond a doubt that his deposition would be highly popular, not only in the capital, but in the whole country.

But it must not be supposed that because the Turks hate the present Sultan they are any more favourably disposed towards Europeans. On the contrary, the very men who condemn and execrate him are the first to declare that they would resist European interference to the last gasp, and that the Christians here shall be made to pay dearly for any attempt by an European Power to take Constantinople by force of arms. That this feeling is in part due to the exaggerated language employed by a part of the London press and by speakers at the meetings held in England cannot, I fear, be denied. It is therefore satisfactory to see that a more moderate language is now being employed, and it is to be hoped that those who have some influence with Lord Salisbury's Government will employ it in the endeavour to induce our Ministers to come to an agreement with Russia and France by which, mutual sacrifices being made, a good and stable Government, under European control, may be given to Turkey, and the lives and properties of her inhabitants, whether Moslem or Christian, may be secured.

No. 51.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 812.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an account of the recent massacre at Eghin, which has been communicated to me by the President of the Armenian Relief Committee.

The official Gazette of the 7th instant contained the announcement that Rifaat Bey, Kaïmakam of Eghin, had been promoted from the fourth to the third class of civil functionaries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Paper communicated to Sir P. Currie by Mr. Whittall.

Kharput, September 22, 1896.

I AM very sorry to report that a great calamity has befallen the city of Eghin. There is no town in the interior with more wealth probably and with better houses. There were about 1,000 Armenian houses, and an equal number of Turkish. Of the Christian houses it is said that more than 600 have been burned. The estimate of the killed is from 800 to 1,000.

Eghin is one of the few places that was spared during the devastation last autumn. A large ransom was paid to the Kurds at that time, and the Turks and Christians joined

in defending the place. The official version of the late affair is (I have it from superior officers) that the Christians gathered in large numbers in the churches Sunday morning and Monday morning, and prolonged their services so that the suspicions of the Turks were excited. On Tuesday the Armenians set fire to some of their own houses in the upper part of the city and began to fire on the Turkish houses, killing a soldier.

The facts seem to be these: The local Governor, who is a native of the place, with two or three others, has represented to the Governor here that there were some seditious characters there, and it is claimed that some Eghinlees in Constantinople were concerned in the late disturbances there. The Vali spoke to some of the Eghinlees who live here in regard to it and they wrote to their friends, and they said there was only one suspicious character there, and he was a Kharputlee and had been sent away. Correspondence between the Eghin, Kharput, and Constantinople authorities has been going on for several weeks, and it would seem that the Constantinople Government was persuaded that there was a seditious element in Eghin, and orders were sent to eliminate it. A few days ago the Kurds, but not in large numbers, threatened the place, but they were sent by the soldiers. This was repeated two or three times. On Monday, the 14th instant, they again appeared, and the Christians had begun to distrust their own neighbours and closed their shops. Tuesday morning, as the shops were not opened, the Governor sent criers throughout the city to proclaim that the Kurds had been dispersed and the Government would assure the perfect safety of every citizen, and every person was commanded to open his shop and resume his business. Upon this, the shops were opened and business resumed its usual course. About noon a single shot was fired, and the slaughter immediately began. The gun is supposed to have been the signal, although the Turks claim that it was fired by an Armenian. Massacre seems to have been the first thing in order, plunder, and the burning of houses, later. It is reported that many women and girls threw themselves into the Euphrates which flows just at the foot of the city.

The Kaïmakam has telegraphed that 2,000 or 3,000 persons are helpless and hungry, and he appeals for aid. The Government will probably do a little for present relief, but it will be only temporary and inadequate. Eghin seems to have suffered even worse than Arabkir and Malatia.

Some prominent Turks intimate that the probabilities are that trouble is in store for this region, and they say that if it comes it will be worse than last year.

No. 52.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 813.) *Therapia, October 9, 1896.*

My Lord,

THE Sultan recently ordered the Commission of Military Inspection, which sits permanently at the Palace, to make an inquiry into the conduct of the troops and police during the recent massacres. Five of the foreign officers in the Turkish service were appointed honorary members of this Commission, namely, General Blunt and Admiral Woods (British), Szechenyi Pasha (Austrian), Kamphoevener Pasha (German), and Lecocq Pasha (French). They did not take part in whatever investigations the Commission may have made, and the first time that they were summoned to attend a meeting, a report exonerating the army and police officers was read to them and they were asked to sign it. On this Kamphoevener Pasha presented a written statement of certain points which he wished to see elucidated before he accepted his nomination as a member of the Commission. He asked first if the police were aware beforehand that the Armenians were preparing an attempt on the 26th August and whether they had taken any precautionary measures in consequence. Should a negative answer be returned to this question, he had three more to ask: (1) why did not the police prevent the massacre of innocent Armenians whose only offence was their nationality? (2) why did not the officers of the army interfere on their own initiative when they saw inoffensive Armenians slaughtered before their eyes? (3) why were the orders to stop the massacre not given sooner.

Lecocq Pasha also objected to signing the document. He was engaged, he said, in the Turkish service for special work in the military school and this matter had no connection with his functions. I regret, however, to state that the two English officers, as well as Szechenyi Pasha, expressed their readiness to sign the Report and supported

the Turks in trying to persuade their colleagues to do so. The latter, however, remained firm, and after a protracted discussion the meeting broke up.

The next day the five foreign officers were again summoned to the Palace and received by Emin Bey, one of the Chamberlains, who dwelt at length on the privileges they enjoyed in the Ottoman service and concluded by communicating to them the Sultan's desire that they should sign the Report of the Commission. A discussion similar to that of the previous day followed, with the same result. The Austrian and British officers expressed their readiness to sign; the German and French refused.

The five officers were subsequently interviewed by Izzet Bey, apparently more than once. He adopted a more threatening tone than the Chamberlain and told them that as officers in the Sultan's service, they were bound to obey His Majesty's orders which were to sign the Report without further delay. Kamphoevener Pasha replied that he would not sign it under such circumstances, even if he were ordered by his own Emperor. The discussion became somewhat heated and Kamphoevener Pasha sent in his resignation some days later on the ground that he had been insulted by Izzet Bey. I understand, however, that this portion of the incident will probably be arranged by Izzet Bey making some kind of apology.

As Kamphoevener and Lecocq Pashas remained intractable, Izzet Bey summoned to the Palace on the 5th October the Dragomans of the Austrian, German, French, and British Embassies, and communicated to them an Imperial Iradé. I have the honour to inclose an abstract of its contents, which were briefly that the Sultan had named the five foreign officers members of the Commission in order to secure an impartial inquiry satisfactory to Europe; that the officers had refused to either sign the Report or continue the inquiry on the points in dispute in conjunction with their Turkish colleagues, and that His Majesty therefore appealed to the Embassies for assistance.

This message was also given to the Russian, and later to the Italian Dragoman. The latter was informed that M. Graziani, an ex-Dragoman of the Italian Embassy now employed at the Porte, had been named a member of the Commission, and that some would be found to represent Russia.

I am told that M. Cambon has caused the Palace to be informed that he entirely approves of Lecocq Pasha's conduct, but otherwise the Embassies have taken no notice of the Sultan's message.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

AFTER a preface referring to the disturbance of the 26th August, the document set forth that His Majesty had given instructions for the trial and punishment of the persons who had taken upon themselves to repress the Armenians, a task which had properly devolved upon the authorities [*sic*] through a specially constituted Tribunal under the presidency of Lebib Effendi; further, as the foreign press had accused the police and soldiery of neglecting their duty, and of even participating in the massacres, His Majesty had, with the spirit of justice and impartiality that distinguished him, instructed the Commission of Military Inspection ("Teftish Asheric Commissiona"), which sat at at the Palace under the nominal presidency of Cheref Mouhtar Pasha, and in his absence under the Acting Presidency of Ismail Pasha, to make a searching and unprejudiced inquiry into the conduct of the soldiers and police. The inquiry had accordingly been made, but the Sultan, "in order to prove to the foreign Ambassadors the serious nature of the inquiry, and to assure still further the good intentions of the Imperial Government," had later appointed as honourable members of the Commission Kamphoevener Pasha (German), Lecocq Pasha (French), Blunt and Woods Pashas (English), and Szechenyi Pasha (Austrian) as foreigners in the Turkish service to take part in the inquiry. These officers were asked either to approve and sign the Report already made, or else, if they disapproved of it, or had any special information which would throw light on the occurrences which had passed, or saw any discrepancies or omissions which required elucidation, to make further inquiry and investigation with their Turkish colleagues, with the assistance of their interpreters. Some of these foreign officers, however, after accepting the position on the Commission, had declined to agree to the above proposal. His Majesty therefore appealed to the Ambassadors. The latter were continually giving him

advice to reform his police and gendarmerie administrations, and to check abuses to which advice he was always prepared to lend a ready ear, and here was an occasion when he desired to make strict investigation and to punish the guilty—a desire which was frustrated by some of the foreign officers in his service.

Only inquiry and cross-examination could elucidate the truth, and yet these officers declined to proceed. One officer had, indeed, stated that Bertram Effendi (a German in the Turkish Custom-house Administration) had seen an officer of police kill an Armenian, and, when asked to make an investigation, had declined; therefore, Bertram Effendi had been communicated with, and had written on two occasions denying the occurrence. This was a case in point. Investigation had shown that the story was untrue, and in order to arrive at the truth of all the circumstances reported with reference to the disturbances there was no way but to resort to a just and searching and impartial inquiry. His Majesty therefore begged the Ambassadors to instruct the officers in question to raise no further difficulties.

October 6, 1896.

No. 53.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 814.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 813 of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a statement drawn up by Mr. Thompson, of Her Majesty's Consulate, respecting the proceedings of a Special Commission, of which General Blunt and Admiral Woods are members, which has been inquiring into the losses sustained by foreign subjects during the recent disturbances.

I have no information respecting the objects of this Commission, but it is believed in the British community that the Turkish Government are gradually arresting the Armenian employés of all those firms which claim indemnities with the view of resisting their demands on the ground that the damage done to warehouses was due to the presence of revolutionaries within them.

It is a matter of regret that British officers in the Turkish service should take part in such proceedings, which are without the sphere of their official duties, and should be ready, as reported in my previous despatch, to lend their names, and such authority as they may carry, for the purposes of justifying the acts of the Turkish civil and military authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Memorandum.

A TURKISH Military Commission composed of the following officers :—

General of Division, Saadi Pasha.
" " " Blunt "
" " " Izaak " (Medical).
" " " Szechenyi Pasha.
" " Brigade, Hussan Riza Pasha.
Admiral, Woods Pasha.

Visited the offices of the several British steam-ships named below on the 6th instant, and held an inquiry in respect of the damage sustained by them in consequence of their places of business being broken into and pillaged on the 27th August last.

Mr. W. Binns, Manager for Ridley and Co., Shipping Agents, Demirdji Bashi Khan, Galata, says the above officers came into his office without his permission, seated themselves, and began to ask questions. Woods Pasha was the interpreter at the beginning; subsequently, Mr. Binns spoke Turkish. They asked him for his statement of claim and other questions. Finally he was asked to sign, but refused.

Woods Pasha said it was in his interest to sign, and he finally did so. As they were all in uniform he considered they were acting officially.

Macnamara, of the same address, says :—

"Blunt Pasha walked into his office and said he and several Turkish officers wished to ask him a few questions in respect to his damage. Woods was interpreter, who said it was in Macnamara's interest to give the fullest information. He refused to sign, but was induced to do so by Woods, who gave him his word of honour the translation was correct, and it was in his interest to do so."

H. Swan, of same address, says :—

"The Commission came to his office without asking permission, produced papers, &c., and began their inquiry. He answered their questions, but refused to sign. He was induced to do so by Woods, who said it would look bad if he refused to follow the others."

Besides the above, Bonds and Co.'s place of business at Kiretch Kapou was visited by the Commission, and an inquiry held there.

The proceedings that these gentlemen were asked to sign were all written in Turkish by Izaak Pasha.

(Signed) W. THOMPSON.

No. 54.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 815.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 409 and 411 of the 23rd and 25th ultimo respectively, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the arrival there of Armenian refugees from Constantinople, and suggesting a grant of 100*l.* for their relief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that over 1,000 of the Armenians expelled from Constantinople after the recent massacres have now reached Erzeroum, the great majority of them on their way to the districts lying further in the interior.

About one-half of these people are quite destitute, and all complain of the cruel treatment and privations from which they suffer on the road.

According to their own account, a ration of only a quarter of an oke (about ¾-lb.) of bread was issued to them, and this is manifestly insufficient to perform a severe march upon. Several are said to have died on the road, and there are many cases of sickness; many are barefooted and suffering from blistered feet, besides being insufficiently clad and without covering for the night.

As the Turkish Government appears to be indifferent to the sufferings of these unfortunate people, I venture to suggest that the Erzeroum Relief Committee might be authorized to do what is possible to assist them. A great deal could be done at a very small cost, and I estimate that a credit of 100*l.* would suffice for this purpose.

To-day I drew the attention of the Vali of Erzeroum to the condition of the exiles, feeling confident that once his Excellency was informed of the facts, he would endeavour to provide for their better treatment while within his jurisdiction. His Excellency assured me that he would give stringent orders that they were not to be

ill-used by their escort, and that he had already ordered that they should receive daily three-quarters of an oke of bread, which is a soldier's ration.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Excellency in my telegrams of yesterday's and to-day's dates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 55.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 818.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting the circumstances in connection with the search of an Armenian house in that town by the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October 5, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency on an incident of recent occurrence, which, though trifling in itself, is but too ominously indicative of the ever-increasing excitability and readiness to take umbrage or alarm of the lower class Turks of this town.

On the afternoon of the 3rd instant a report was spread by some mischievous person that two young Turkish women had been seen to enter the house of M. Gyulbenkyan, the chief Armenian (Gregorian) Notable of this town. The rumour grew and soon reached the ears of the police authorities, whereupon the Second Commissary of that body proceeded, with several of his men, to M. Gyulbenkyan's house with a view to verifying the exactitude or otherwise of the information which had been received. A crowd soon collected, and in the course of a few minutes some 200 persons, nearly all Turks of the lower class, were assembled before the door of the suspected house. The Commissary having knocked, was informed by the woman who opened the door that M. Gyulbenkyan was in his office in the market-place, whereupon a policeman was sent to fetch him. He soon appeared, and with every sign of astonishment and no little trepidation inquired of the Commissary why his house was being besieged, to all appearances, by so large a crowd of people. On being informed of the motive of the sudden domiciliary visit, M. Gyulbenkyan declared that he knew nothing whatever of the presence of any Turkish women, young or old, in his house, which, however, the police might search from top to bottom if they chose. The police then entered the house, where they found two old Turkish women, who, on being interrogated, declared positively that they had come to ask if there was any washing to be done, they having been employed as laundresses by the master of the house for some years past. The police, well knowing that Turkish women are so employed in most of the well-to-do Christian houses of Angora, saw at once what a foolish mistake had been made, and left the house forthwith after a few muttered apologies to its owner. No sooner were they outside than they began to disperse the mob, the coming together of which they had hitherto practically encouraged, by a liberal employment of bad language eked out by blows from the flat of their swords.

This fortunately was the very tame conclusion of an incident which promised at one time to end far otherwise. For there can be no doubt whatever, as has been most reasonably pointed out to me, that had there been any men in M. Gyulbenkyan's house at the time the police entered it, which most fortunately for him was not the case, all his family being now in Constantinople, while both of his man-servants were out at the time, or, had the Turkish women been younger, which might easily have been the case, the result of the domiciliary visit, if we take into consideration M. Gyulbenkyan's nationality

and the present extraordinary excitability of the Turkish mob, might have been of a most sanguinary and tragic character.

I will merely mention, in conclusion, that M. Gyulbenkyan, who is closely related to the two brothers of that name, the well-known merchants residing in Constantinople, is no longer young, and bears an excellent reputation, both personally and commercially, among all classes of this town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 56.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 819.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Kharput, reporting a panic which occurred in that town, and the measures which he suggested, and which were adopted with a successful result. I have signified approval of his action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Kharput, September 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 15th and 16th instant, reporting the great and general anxiety then prevailing among the Christians in this town, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency the measures taken by the civil and military authorities to prevent disturbances here, and to allay the anxiety in question.

On Saturday, the 12th instant, I received a letter from Dr. Barnum informing me of the terror of the Armenians at Kharput owing to the warnings of friendly Turks, and the threatening language of the lower class Moslems. Upon receipt of this letter I thought it my duty, in the first place, to provide as far as possible for the safety of the missionaries. Accordingly, I wrote, as I was ill with fever at the time, an official note to the Vali, of which a copy is herein inclosed, informing him of the panic among the Armenians, and demanding that instant measures should be adopted for the adequate protection of the American Mission.

The Vali thereupon dispatched the Chief of Gendarmerie at Mezreh with a few of his men to Kharput with orders to augment the guard attached to the Mission, and to consult Dr. Barnum as to what might further be done to insure the safety of the American citizens there.

Towards the evening of Tuesday, the 15th instant, the terror, both at Kharput and at Mezreh, rose to fever point by reason of rumours of disturbances having occurred at Eghin and elsewhere in this vilayet. Several persons called upon me after dusk in a state of the greatest agitation. I did my best to reassure them, and on the following morning called upon and had long conversations with the Vali and Military Commandant.

I pointed out to them the danger to which the Protestant Mission would be exposed in the event of another outbreak owing to the unreasonable though general ill-will harboured by Turks of all classes against the person of Dr. Barnum.

I reminded them that the missionaries barely escaped with their lives during the last disturbance here, and warned them of the grave responsibility they would incur should any further mishap befall the Mission, more especially as there was now an English lady residing there.

I then suggested that the garrison at Kharput should be increased, and that the officer in command there should be held responsible for any disturbance that might happen in the town, and for the safety of the Mission staff and buildings; that sentinels should be stationed both in the Armenian and Turkish quarters at Mezreh; and that a

trustworthy officer should be sent round to the various villages in the neighbourhood to order the Ages to keep the villagers quiet, and prevent the Turks from menacing and molesting their Christian neighbours, numbers of whom had already begun to flock into Mezreh for protection, and that suspicious characters, whether Turkish or Armenian, should be at once arrested and kept under restraint until public confidence should be restored.

All the measures suggested by me have been put into force. A battalion of Reserves has also been formed, and the company of regular troops at Kharput has been reinforced by a company of Reserves.

Besides these troops, there is a battalion of regulars stationed at Mezreh.

An "Ilan," or Proclamation, a copy, with translation, of which I inclose herewith, has, moreover, been printed and posted up at the konak and in other public places, reminding the people that the Sultan desires that all classes of his subjects should live peaceably together, and ordering them to keep the peace.

The general uneasiness has now abated somewhat, and I do not anticipate any immediate trouble here, but the calling out of the Reserves has in no way contributed towards reassuring the Armenians, who cannot forget, it seems, the part played by those troops during the disturbance in this town last winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Vice-Consul Fontana to the Governor-General of Kharput.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Mezreh, le 12 Septembre*, 1896.

J'AI l'honneur d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur les faits suivants.

Hier au soir après avoir quitté le konak j'ai reçu de bonne source des nouvelles très inquiétantes. Des Notables Musulmans ont prévenu des Notables Chrétiens de la ville qu'un danger imminent les menace; et que les événements regrettables qui viennent d'avoir lieu à Constantinople ont eu pour résultat de créer une impression des plus fâcheuses parmi les Musulmans du peuple, qui sont tous armés, du reste, quoiqu'ils cachent les armes dont ils se sont munis.

Je le crois, par conséquent, de mon devoir de demander à votre Excellence que des ordres catégoriques soient envoyés à l'officier chargé de la protection de la ville, pour qu'au moins quatorze hommes choisis soient immédiatement ajoutés, en cas de troubles, aux six gendarmes dont est composée actuellement la garde de la Mission Américaine; et que l'on signifie à cet officier que si par suite des désordres qui pourront éclater dans cette province le moindre mal arrive à la susdite Mission ou à quelqu'un des missionnaires, il en sera tenu responsable, et que cette responsabilité lui sera extrêmement grave.

Je me permets, d'ailleurs, de faire observer à votre Excellence que la Mission Américaine abrite, dans ce moment, la nommée Mme. Harris, sujette Britannique; et que par conséquent la responsabilité de votre Excellence—aussi bien que la mienne—vis-à-vis de cette Mission sera, sans doute, très grande aux yeux soit de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, soit du Ministre des États-Unis d'Amérique à Constantinople.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

(Seal.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Notice.

(Translation.)

IT is needless to state that the desire of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan is that the honour, life, and property of his subjects, to whatever class they belong, should be carefully guarded, and that to this end the public peace and tranquillity should be complete. His Imperial Majesty will never countenance injury done, however slight it be and from whatsoever source it proceed, to any one of his subjects. Should it be ascertained, therefore, that contrary to the will of God and of the Sultan any wrong, either open or secret, shall have been wrought by ignorant persons, or by whomsoever it be, upon any

other individual, the guilty party or parties will be instantly visited with severe punishment. So let every man know the Imperial will, and let all men live together like brethren and like fellow-patriots in honest converse, pursuing quietly their daily occupations, and studiously avoiding any act, attitude, or word which may possibly give rise to restlessness or disquiet.

(Seal of Vali.)

September 5 (17), 1312.

No. 57.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 820.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10*, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 805 of the 7th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus enumerating the demands made by the Druses, who still hold out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, September 28*, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th instant I have the honour to report that I have learnt that the Druses of Salkhad and others, who still hold out, gave a sort of ultimatum to the Mushir, the irreducible minimum of their demands. They demanded a just administration, to secure which they desired to have only military officials, as they had had sufficient experience of civil functionaries. Secondly, they required the establishment of schools in the Jebel; and, thirdly, the construction of the projected branch line of railway from Sheikh Meskin to Suedah. Lastly, they insisted that soldiers should take the place of zaptiehs, whose presence they detest, and reasonably so, as they are mostly Kurds, and the curse of the country.

The Mushir replied that he would communicate these demands to the Sublime Porte, and it appears that some effect has been produced, as the Director of Public Instruction here has received orders to establish ten schools in the Jebel Druse in addition to five previously existing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 58.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 821.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10*, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Consul at Erzeroum, giving the account of the Eghin massacre as related to him by the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 24, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that to-day the Vali of Erzeroum informed me that serious disturbances had taken place at Eghin, in the Kharput Vilayet, about four or five days ago. I have since learnt that the date of their occurrence must have been some days earlier than this, but his Excellency was speaking off-hand and without reference to documents.

According to Raouf Pasha's story, the Armenians of Eghin, after receiving the news of the massacres at Constantinople, had taken up arms and withdrawn to the neighbouring mountains, after setting fire to a part of the town. Troops were sent against them, and an engagement took place, in which 11 Mussulmans were killed and 28 wounded, 400 of the Armenians being killed. In speaking of the losses his Excellency used the word "Mussulmans" and not "troops," and I gather from this that Bashi-Bozouks as well as regulars were engaged in the attack on the Christians. He added that a body of Kurds, excited by these events, had endeavoured to cross the frontier of the Erzeroum Vilayet, but had been turned back by troops dispatched for this purpose by the Vali's orders.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegraph to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 59.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, giving an account of a raid by Kurds on an Armenian village called Bournaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 25, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Saturday last, the 19th instant, at about two hours after sundown, an attack was made upon the village of Bournaz, in the Caza of Khinis, by a band of Zirrekanli Kurds, said to be some of the men of Kouli Khan Beg of Seuilemez, who is now in Constantinople, with one squadron of his Hamidieh Regiment. Following their usual custom, the Kurds fired a random volley into the village to terrify the inhabitants, and then proceeded to pillage the houses and drive off the cattle. The only person injured was an Armenian girl, both whose legs were broken by a bullet; she died before she could be brought into Khinis—four hours' distance—for medical assistance. Bournaz was plundered last year at the time of the massacres, and has been in the receipt of relief from the Anglo-American fund. The villagers had begun their autumn ploughing, and not having cattle enough, had hired a few oxen from neighbouring villages, which were driven off with their own, so that they are now in a worse plight than ever, as they must make good the hired oxen.

The Vali of Erzeroum informed me yesterday that he had ordered a detachment of troops to pursue the raiders, and recover the plundered property at all costs. It is but fair to state that this is the first bad raid of the kind in the Erzeroum district, which has come to my notice since the affair of Harsinkiar, reported in my despatch of

the 11th July. Though minor cases of cattle robbery continue to be frequent, and the comparative security which reigns in this vilayet is due to the unceasing exertions of the Vali Raouf Pasha, whose maintenance in this post is devoutly to be hoped for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 60.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 823.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the removal to that town, for judgment, of a number of political prisoners from Erzinghian, and the measures taken, in general, by the Vali for the better administration of justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 25, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a number of political prisoners now detained at Erzinghian are about to be removed for trial to Erzeroum. This step must be regarded as an unmixed gain for the prisoners in question, for, as your Excellency is aware, for some time past at Erzinghian, political charges have been pressed with relentless severity, acquittals have been rare, the heaviest sentences of the law have invariably been pronounced, and the results of such trials have been kept secret as long as possible, so to avoid the chance of European interference.

At Erzeroum, on the other hand, the presence of the foreign Consulates acts as a check upon hole-and-corner modes of procedure, and insures at least the publicity of the results. At the same time it may be hoped that the influence of the present Vali will be thrown into the scale on the side of justice and a fair trial, so far as that is possible in Turkey. Raouf Pasha has just given an earnest of this by his action in purging the local Courts of Justice of some of their worst elements. Within the last few days he has, in the face of strong opposition, procured the dismissal of five important members of the judicial staff who were noted for their venality and misconduct. Two of these, Shereef Effendi Sheikh Zadé and Garabet Effendi Sarafian, were members of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Section), two more, Sabri Effendi and Ghalib Bey, were Juges d'Instruction, and the other, Yousouf Effendi, was Chief Clerk in the Commercial Court. The first named, Sheriff Effendi, is believed to be the inspirer, if not the actual author of the incendiary placards posted here of late, as reported in my despatch of the 11th instant, and all of them, together with the Census Director Tahir Bey, who has also been dismissed, are known to have covertly opposed the Vali's efforts to restore and maintain confidence, and remedy judicial and Administrative abuses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 61.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 824.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora reporting the arrest of two Turks, Government employés, at Denek Ma'adon on a charge of being in correspondence with Armenian revolutionists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that two Turks named Ismail and Ahmed, respectively, who are small Government employés at Denek Ma'aden in the Caza of Keskin, about 48 miles to the south-east of Angora, have been arrested, examined by the Juge d'Instruction, and sent under police escort to Constantinople charged with having been engaged in a secret and treasonable correspondence with certain members of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee in the capital.

It would appear, according to the authorities, that the papers found in the possession of these men constitute the most conclusive proof of their guilt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 62.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 827.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 776 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Ikdam" of the 8th October published an article (précis of which is herewith inclosed) dissuading Armenians from emigrating, and suggesting that not only should all such as leave the country forfeit their Ottoman nationality, but that they should also be forbidden to return.

On the next day the following official communiqué appeared in the same newspaper:—

"The continued departure of Armenians affords to the ill-disposed an opportunity of asserting that there is no security for life and property in Turkey. As this is absolutely false, and there exists no ground whatever for apprehensions, the following measures have been decreed by the Council of State and sanctioned by Imperial Iradé:—

"All Armenians who persist in their desire to emigrate must present to a special Commission a written guarantee that they will not return to Turkey, attested by the Patriarchate and accompanied by two photographs. If their demand is agreed to they will be given passports, stating clearly that they will not be permitted to return to Turkey, and that they cease to be Ottoman subjects; their names will be at the same time registered in a special register, and entered at the proper official departments and at the Patriarchate. All those who leave the country without permission of the Ottoman Government and do not return within a month and a-half from the publication of this notification (or if a valid excuse be adduced within two months), must notify to the Ottoman missions abroad that they do not intend to return to Turkey, and all such as do not return within the prescribed period will be divested of their Ottoman nationality. No claims to foreign nationality on the part of Ottoman Armenians attempting to return with foreign passports will be admitted, whatever their name or class, nor will they be received in any part of the Ottoman dominions.

"These provisions do not apply to Armenians who left the country twenty years ago, nor to seditious Armenians. Those who emigrated in the past will not be allowed to enter the country, and all revolutionaries and seditious persons will be at once arrested and handed over to the Tribunals to be dealt with according to law. Moreover, as many foreign Armenians have taken part in the recent sedition, and there is great difficulty in distinguishing them from the natives, no demands for admission to Ottoman nationality on the part of foreigners will be entertained or proceeded with."

The contradictory character of these Regulations cannot fail to produce much confusion, and I am causing inquiries to be made at the Sublime Porte with the view of obtaining some further explanation of the intentions of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Précis of Article in the "Ikdam" of October 8, 1896.

(Translation.)

THE crimes of the Armenian revolutionaries have met with universal abhorrence, while the prompt success of the Government in restoring order has aroused the admiration and congratulation of the whole world. The foolish dreams of the seditious are blamed not only by the humane, but the loyal Armenians are united in reproving them. Their own newspapers have done so in articles reproduced in these columns. It is inevitable that a community should contain both good and evil men; it is to the latter among the Armenians that our remarks apply. But order having been so promptly and satisfactorily restored, we cannot understand why Armenians are emigrating to Bulgaria and other countries. It is well known to all that not a single person who has not committed acts of sedition has been in the slightest degree molested by the Government, which is not likely to depart from the principles of toleration and perfect equality which it has practised for the last six centuries. If fear is the cause of this exodus, the Armenians, *i.e.*, the disloyal among them, are the sole causes, as is admitted even by our enemies.

In other countries Armenians, so far from enjoying the complete liberty and tolerance which they participate in here, will be compelled to become orthodox, to use the churches of those countries, to adopt their language, to give up their own priesthood, &c. Let them compare these privations with the countless benefits and privileges which they enjoy in the Ottoman Empire before deciding to depart.

Moreover, we are informed that, as is but natural, those that have left wander about the streets, exposed to hunger and privation. This should serve as a lesson to others. Order having been completely restored, and their being absolutely no reason for loyal Armenians to fear, and as they will never meet elsewhere with the happiness, equality, and favours which they enjoy here, we think that the Government would be fully justified in refusing to allow such as wish to regain these privileges which they have given up by emigrating to return to this country. Wherefore, let loyal and honourable Armenians who have not and do not desire to mix in sedition, and who have suffered no molestation at the hands either of the Government or of individual Turks, let such be reassured and remain in their native land, offering up prayers for the prolongation of the Sultan's life; such advice we deem it our duty to give.

No. 63.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 828.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the state of those parts of the Vilayets of Adana and Aleppo which he has recently visited.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Adana, October* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my recent journey in the Provinces of Adana and Aleppo, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following brief summary of the present state of the parts visited.

The Armenian population is everywhere oppressed by a system of government which takes from them the means of circulating freely, of earning a livelihood, and of enjoying a feeling of security to life and property, even on the most frequented highway. Taxes are levied without mercy, even from the poorest. The prisons are filled with innocent men, who lie there for months without trial.

While the Armenians threaten to lose patience and to break out into some act of

rebellion, the Government officials have everywhere informed me that their orders are "to be ready" and to exterminate the Armenian wherever he may lift his head. The Moslem populace is everywhere armed in readiness for the unarmed Armenian, and we may expect disturbances whenever and wherever a spark may kindle.

I have everywhere warned the Armenians to give no cause for massacre or disturbance, but their patience is waning; they have waited so long without any result, they say, that they are losing hope, and they prefer death to enduring their present sufferings.

No protests to the Governor-General of Adana are of any use. This official's salary has lately been increased 25*l.* a-month as a mark of satisfaction at his utter incompetency, I presume.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 64.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 829.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting the arrest of certain seditious Armenians at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency a rather curious incident which has been brought to my knowledge in connection with the recent arrest of certain Armenians at Yuzgat.

It would appear that about a fortnight or so ago an Armenian merchant of Denek Ma'aden, named Avedis Machsoumian, went to Yuzgat, nominally, on business. Shortly after his arrival he had secret interviews at different times with the chief Armenian Notables of the town to whom he confided that he was trying to raise a troop of mounted men, an enterprise in which he hoped, with their aid, to succeed. He proposed that the community should provide him with forty horsemen, for whose wives and families during the absence of the bread-winners, he solemnly bound himself to provide. These proposals met with absolute and unqualified rejection on the part of the persons to whom they were made, and Machsoumian was told that if he did not leave Yuzgat at once, he would be denounced to the Turkish authorities. He yielded, and left the town, only to return again a few days afterwards accompanied by another Armenian, whose name I have been unable to ascertain. The two men together made another attempt to win over to their cause the persons whom Machsoumian alone had failed to convince. In this, however, they only very partially succeeded, and that by dint of much persuasive language and the exhibition of considerable stores of money and ammunition with which they appeared to be amply provided. Some few of the Yuzgat men were finally convinced of the feasibility of Machsoumian's project, which, however, the majority of their co-religionists not only refused to countenance, but even went and revealed to the local authorities. Machsoumian was at once arrested as well as four of his converts, named Senakerim Kebabjian, school-master; Avedis Mashlakjian, of the same profession; Dicran Bakirjian, a merchant's clerk; and Nazar Baklayan, leather-seller.

Machsoumian's companion appears to have escaped, at all events no mention is made of his arrest.

It seems that Kebabjian has only recently returned from Palestine, after a three years' confinement in the fortress of Akka (St. Jean d'Acre). Mashlakjian, too, is not long out of Yuzgat prison, in which he spent a year; so that they are both unfavourably known to the authorities, who, it is reported, are treating them with every species of indignity, and even subjecting them to torture for the purpose of extorting confession as to supposed accomplices.

The Vali denies this latter fact on the strength of statements made to that effect by the Mutessarif of Yuzgat, but I am not inclined to put much faith in such assurances, knowing that the practise of torturing prisoners is still by no means uncommon in Turkey.

Any further information I may obtain in this connection, I shall not fail to communicate to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 65.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 830.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, giving especially an account of the deplorable state of the Féké district of Kozan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Adana, October* 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have only just recovered slightly from a very severe attack of fever, which appears to have temporarily much injured my health. I trust, however, not to be prevented from attending to my duties. It was caused, doubtless, by the privations, fatigues, and unhealthy halting-places of my recent journey in extremely hot weather.

I respectfully beg to thank your Excellency for the money granted from relief funds for Kozan villages, and I trust that a further sum may be available for Hadjin town.

On perfectly reliable authority, I regret to have to inform your Excellency that the state of Féké district of Kozan could not be much worse. Oppression and terror reign, and the prisons are full to overflowing with innocent Armenians. The people are being goaded apparently into open rebellion. All direct remonstrance with the Governor-General of Adana proves useless, this old official being dead to all energetic or useful act of government. A disaster is to be feared at any moment if the present Kaim-Mukam of Féké be not removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 66.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 831.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 12, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 408 of the 23rd September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas giving details of the Kurdish raids in the Divrigh district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Sivas, October* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to furnish details of the disorders in the Divrigh district. The Kurds who attacked the villages are of the Sarichechek district that lies on the borders of the Kharput and Sivas Provinces. Their Chief is Mehemet Koord Ogli. This man came to Pinguian a few days before the disturbances and demanded 400*l.* The villagers refused to give it, and he then threatened to destroy them.

On Friday, the 18th September, these Kurds, accompanied by Turks of the surrounding villages, came to Kesme, a village of 150 houses, half Turkish half Armenian. The most part of the Armenians fled, but some took refuge in the houses of their Turkish neighbours, who afterwards gave them up; 12 houses were burnt, 8 men were killed, and every Armenian house pillaged. The Kurds then went to Zimara, a village of 100 houses, 70 of which are Armenian. Here, too, most of the Armenians had fled, as they had seen the smoke of the burning houses at Kesme; 15 houses were burnt, 3 women were killed and 9 men.

Some time previous to this, a villager of Zimara had gone to the Sarichechek district to buy oxen. On arriving there, a friend of his among the Kurds told him not to buy, as they had received orders to attack the Armenians. He himself saw the Kurds sharpening their knives, moulding bullets, and getting their guns ready.

From Zimara, on the following day (Saturday), the Kurds went to Pinguian, a village of 200 houses, wholly Armenian. On one side of Pinguian is the Euphrates, and on the other steep mountains, and the only escape was by a road leading up a steep ascent. Escape was therefore difficult, and not less than sixty Armenians were killed. In addition, many women threw themselves into the Euphrates to escape ill-treatment. The whole village is completely burnt, with the exception of one house and one khan. Three other villages were also looted: Ileech, Hassan Olva, and Naver. These are in the Kharput Vilayet.

The Kurds then started for Divrigh. On getting near Ardmadar, a village in the neighbourhood, they found the Kaïmakam of Divrigh with some soldiers, and they then at once retired. The movements of the soldiers during this time are remarkable. A Lieutenant and forty men were sent from Divrigh on Thursday and halted Thursday night at Kesme. Early on Friday morning this party went to Pinguian, and on Friday the Armenians of Kesme and Zimara were pillaged. On Saturday morning this party returned to Kesme, and on Saturday Pinguian was burnt. Pinguian is about 4½ miles in a direct line from Zimara, and the smoke of burning houses could have been seen and the shots heard by this party. By road the distance is under two hours. Some of the inhabitants of Divrigh fled from fear. Three of these were killed. The number of killed stated above is the number of those killed inside the villages. Probably some of those who fled were killed. A Kurdish Chief, Mustapha Bey, protected all who came to his district, as he did during the disorders of last autumn. The Vali has authorized the issue of bread to these villages, and parties of zaptiehs have been sent to seek and induce those who fled to return; but the man I sent to Pinguian reports that at present the village is completely deserted, except by a few old women too decrepit to fly, who, by some oversight, had not been destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 67.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 832.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 12, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting that there is a slight improvement in the condition of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Diarbekir, September* 29, 1896.

FOR the last two months this vilayet has on the whole been in a quieter condition than at any time since the massacres of last year; lately some agitation was caused by the news of the disturbances in Constantinople, but no actual infraction of the peace occurred.

As I had the honour to report by telegram a somewhat disturbing effect was also produced by a telegram from Arif Effendi to his son here, announcing that he had been advanced in rank, and would shortly return here. This man took a prominent part in the massacre, and kept up so much agitation for some months afterwards that the Government found itself obliged to remove him from here, and he was sent to Mosul last March. He subsequently obtained permission to proceed to Constantinople, and is there now. I sincerely trust that the Grand Vizier's promise to your Excellency not to allow him to return here will be kept, as it would be difficult to exaggerate the disastrous effect that his return would have throughout this vilayet. Though things are comparatively quiet now it would take very little to set the elements of disorder again in motion; the Kurds who took part in the disturbances have not been punished, and those who protected the Christians have been given to understand, or at any rate are under the impression, that their action was displeasing to the Government.

The maintenance of order hitherto has been mainly due to the presence of Zia Pasha, the Military Commandant, who has effectively exerted his influence in the right direction; if some mark of favour could be given him by the Government it would have an excellent effect here, and would serve to show the population that the Government is really in favour of the preservation of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 68.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 833.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 18, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 414 of the 26th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, giving details of the massacre at Eghin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Kharput, September* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 16th and 25th instant, reporting that a serious disturbance took place a fortnight ago at Eghin, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency all that I have since learned with regard to the disturbance in question.

Information received by me indirectly from a Turk connected with the telegraph office here the day after the massacre had ended is to the following effect:—

On Monday, the 14th instant, a telegram was received by the Kharput authorities from the Palace, informing them that the following day at 4 o'clock (Turkish time) the Armenians at Eghin intended to create a disturbance, and instructing them to take the necessary action.

On Tuesday, the 15th instant, at about half-past 1 (Turkish), Mustapha Pasha, the Military Commandant, proceeded to the telegraph office and wired certain instructions to the authorities of the latter town. Thereupon the Acting Kaïmakam, Hakki Effendi,

the Mal-Mudiri Osman, Hafiz Effendi, of the Administrative Council, Salih Effendi, member of the Eghin Correctional Court, and Kara Bey, Head of the Municipality, armed themselves, called together the Moslems, and caused the Imperial troops to surround the Armenian quarter at Keui-Bashi. Shortly afterwards a gun was fired, and the massacre began.

It is believed that an indirect order was sent from the Palace for the massacre in question to be carried out, owing to the fact of Eghin Armenians having been concerned in the recent disturbance at Constantinople.

The Armenian Murakhas of Eghin was compelled by the authorities, under pain of death, to telegraph to the Patriarch that the Armenians were responsible for the outbreak there.

The story now circulating among the Turks at Mezreh, and discredited, I have reason to believe, by the great majority of them, is as follows:—

On Sunday, the 13th instant, the Armenians at Eghin assembled in their church as usual, but remained there several hours. After the service had terminated, the Kaïmakam Vekili called up their leading men, and asked them why they had remained so long at their prayers. They replied that there was no particular reason for their doing so.

The next day they again went to their church, and stayed there so long that the Acting Kaïmakam felt compelled to send two officials to see what was going on. When these officials entered the church they found that the Armenians had tied a rope round the neck of their Murakhas, and were dragging him about, crying in a chorus, "Why did you prevent us making a disturbance before?"

On the following morning 500 Armenians, after setting fire to their own houses, retired with rifles to the hill overlooking the town, and attacked a body of troops who had been sent to disperse certain Kurdish tribes hovering in the neighbourhood. The rebels had bombs with them, stamped with the name of Izmirlian.

Five or six letters received by Armenian Notables here two days ago contain the following information:—

On the Sunday and Monday referred to the Armenians assembled in their church and offered up special prayer, owing to the great fear prevalent in their town. Assurances were, however, given to them by the Acting Kaïmakam that there was no reason for anxiety, and that they might disperse to their houses, which they accordingly did. On Tuesday, the 15th instant, at 4 o'clock (Turkish), a gun-shot was heard—said by the Turks to have been fired by a butcher named Manouk—and immediately afterwards the Armenian quarter was attacked on all sides by Turks armed to the teeth. The town was surrounded by troops, who fired upon any Armenian trying to escape into the country. The massacre lasted until the afternoon of the following Thursday. Upwards of 2,000 Armenians were slaughtered (mostly by the troops), including large numbers of women and children. Some fifty women were thrown into the Euphrates by the soldiery.

Out of the 1,150 houses constituting the Armenian quarter 980 were burned, and all were pillaged. There was, and is, a battalion of regular troops stationed at Eghin. No Kurds entered the town during the disturbance.

In the village of Abchugar fifty-nine Armenians were massacred, and the looting was general. In that of Gemirgeb twenty-three were killed, and the Armenian houses, which were plundered last year, were again looted.

In conclusion, I would add that many Turkish Notables here are deploring the massacre at Eghin, declaring that the Armenians gave no excuse for the crime. The Eghin Armenians have hitherto been greatly respected among all classes as being the most distinguished and refined, as well as the best educated of their race; and among Armenians in general, it is considered an honour, I am told, to be a native of Eghin.

It is to be apprehended, therefore, that this disaster will produce an impression even among Armenians who have witnessed similar troubles in other localities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 69.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 885.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 14, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Circular *note verbale* addressed by the Sublime Porte to the foreign Missions, complaining that Armenian revolutionaries arriving at Constantinople by sea frequently succeed in eluding the vigilance of the police, and requesting that permission may be granted for the ships to be searched by the police immediately on their arrival.

My colleagues and I were unanimously of opinion that it was impossible to entertain this request of the Turkish Government, and I have the honour to inclose copy of the identic note which has been addressed to the Sublime Porte in reply.

As originally drafted by the French Ambassador, the note laid down in detail the principles by which the Powers would be guided in the question. Bearing in mind, however, the instructions in Lord Rosebery's despatch No. 185 of the 19th July, 1893, I suggested the wording finally adopted, simply declining the request of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Note Verbale.

(Circulaire.)

IL résulte d'un rapport de la Préfecture de Police que les Anarchistes et révolutionnaires Arméniens qui viennent pour la plupart de l'étranger à Constantinople ne quittent les bateaux sur lesquels ils arrivent que vingt-quatre heures après le débarquement des autres passagers ou n'en sortent que déguisés en matelots ou autrement pour tromper la vigilance des autorités Impériales.

Cet état de choses est de nature à enrayer les efforts déployés par les autorités Impériales pour le maintien de l'ordre public. Le seul moyen d'y remédier consistant en l'inspection par les agents de police des bateaux desservant la capitale à leur arrivée dans le port, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères est persuadé que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, également soucieuse du maintien de la sécurité publique, voudra bien ne point s'opposer à cette inspection et donner partant à qui de droit des instructions en conséquence.

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères,
le 4 Octobre, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Note Verbale.

PAR une note verbale en date du 4 Octobre, la Sublime Porte a prié l'Ambassade de (Sa Majesté Britannique) de donner des instructions pour que les agents de police soient autorisés à inspecter dès leur arrivée dans le port de Constantinople les navires (Anglais). Le but de cette mesure serait de mettre un terme aux débarquements clandestins d'Arméniens Anarchistes et révolutionnaires.

L'Ambassade regrette de ne pouvoir donner suite à une demande qui serait de nature à soulever des questions de droit international, et qui, d'ailleurs, est sans objet, car il est toujours possible à la police Ottomane d'arrêter, au moment de leur débarquement, les individus qui leur paraissent suspects.

Therapia, le *Octobre,* 1896.

No. 70.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 836.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1896.*

SINCE my despatch No. 777 of the 29th ultimo, the Extraordinary Tribunal for the trial of persons connected with the recent disturbances in Constantinople has continued to sit almost every day, although no copies of the *procès-verbaux* have been supplied to Her Majesty's Embassy. I have now the honour to transmit a further Table, showing the number of persons sentenced, together with a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Devey with regard to the nature of the cases heard. Mr. Stavrides has also submitted to me in a Memorandum, which is also inclosed, his appreciation of the manner in which the Court dealt with some of the more important cases brought before it during the last fortnight, notably, three of the Jelal Bey Khan, the Comondo Khan, and the Kiuchuk Millet Khan.

It is evident that steps are being taken to crush the Armenians by convictions before the Tribunals, whereas the Turks, who massacred at least 100 Armenians to every Turk killed, are hardly punished at all. As Mr. Devey points out, the preliminary inquiry is conducted by the police officers as they see fit. At the subsequent examination before the Juge d'Instruction no control of any sort is exercised, so that when the prisoner's *dossier* comes before the Court, it may be full of evidence which he has been given no adequate means of refuting. Nearly 80 per cent. of the evidence has been received from the police or other officials, and no Armenian or rayah would venture to give evidence to prove the murder of an Armenian by a Turk.

The truth of Mr. Devey's remarks on this subject has been confirmed by a correspondence which I have had with Mr. Gatheral, one of the principal British residents at Bebek, with regard to the disturbances which took place there. He informed me that the police, true to their policy of proving the Armenians to be the aggressors in all cases where massacres had taken place in khans, intended to arrest and bring before the Tribunal four Armenian bakers who had taken refuge in their bakery, and concealed themselves there during the riot. He was, he stated, absolutely assured of their innocence, and had evidence in his possession which would establish it. I instructed Mr. Stavrides to make inquiries into this matter at the Ministry of Police, and at the same time asked Mr. Gatheral to hold himself in readiness to produce the evidence if required. I have now the honour to transmit copy of his reply to my request, which will give your Lordship an idea of the difficulty of obtaining justice in such cases, and of the hopelessness of the situation of the Armenians under the present conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

STATEMENT of Persons Sentenced by the Extraordinary Tribunal.

Name of Case.	Description of Accusation.	Number of Prisoners	Article of Code applied.	Nationality. Moslem.	Jew.	Greek.	Armenian.	Sentences.	Date.	Remarks.
Khaviar Khan	Firing on soldiers on the 26th and 29th August	18	..	..	..	..	18	.. .. ..	..	Pending.
Mohmed Effendi, an Afghan, Bagrji Bafram	Possession of stolen objects	3	..	3	..	..	..	Acquitted	September 28	
Hussein-Mehmed ..	Murder of Kavéji Hogeb	2	74	2	..	..	..	Hussein, 15 years' hard labour ..	.. 29	
Vahan	Being aware of sedition	1	..	..	..	..	1	Mehmed, acquitted	.. 29	
Hussein-Aziz	Possession of stolen objects	2	230	2	..	..	..	Acquitted	.. 29	
Ahmed	Ditto	1	230	1	..	..	1	3 months' imprisonment	.. 29	
A Jemmade seller ..	Ditto	1	230	..	..	1	..	Ditto	.. 29	
Hirant	Possession of seditious papers	1	66 (Appendix 2nd Section)	..	..	..	1	Ditto	.. 30	
Tadeos, and two Armenians	Possession of explosives	3	..	..	..	..	3	Acquitted	October 3	
Abdullah	Possession of stolen goods	1	..	1	..	..	..	.. ..	..	Pending.
Tewfik (Mehmed) ..	Ditto	1	230	1	..	..	..	4 months' imprisonment	October 3	
Avedis and his son Onik ..	Firing on troops and killing marine (Hassken)	2	58 (Appendix)	..	..	..	2	Death	.. 6	
Avak, of Koum Kapou ..	Revolutionary papers and engravings ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2 years' imprisonment	.. 6	
Ghizi Camondo Khan ..	Firing revolvers in Galata from windows on police and people	19	57	..	..	..	15	Acquitted	.. 7	
Nicola	Murder of an Armenian	1	..	..	..	1	4	10 years' imprisonment	..	Pending.
Mesiki-Pharmacy ..	Firing on police	5	58	..	..	..	1	Acquitted	..	*Vide* previous List.
								Imprisonment for life	..	

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Memorandum by Mr. Devey.

THE Extraordinary Tribunal was established by Iradé of the Sultan for the purpose of executing justice upon all concerned in the riots and slaughter of the 26th–30th August, and subsequent incidents connected therewith.

The immediate cause of these troubles is undeniably the attack of Armenian revolutionists on the Bank, combined with the seditious doings and manifestations at Psamatia, Galata, Serai, and elsewhere.

It would, therefore, be not unreasonable to allow that this Court be taken to be established, not solely for the strict execution of impartial justice, but also be regarded as an engine for insuring *prompt* and *adequate* punishment of the guilty parties (exclusive of the military and police) for purposes of political vengeance, and for restoring public confidence under the forms of justice.

Hence taking the list of some 35 or 40 cases which have been brought before the Court, it would be superfluous, and perhaps undesirable, to criticize the verdicts and sentences, solely from the point of view of strict impartial justice; in the Vitalis Han case, the Jelal Bey Han case, and several cases of possession of stolen objects by Moslems, under ordinary circumstances, the evidence produced would not suffice for a conviction.

It would be interesting to examine a full list of cases before this Court.

A rough classification of thirty-four cases, of which I have some knowledge, would show—

	Important Cases: Sedition.	Unimportant Cases: Sedition.	Possession of Stolen Objects.	Murder of Armenians.
	Armenians.		Moslems.	
Number of cases	12	6	12	3
.. prisoners	94	7	21	5

The totality of sentences might be about 200 years' imprisonment and 7 capital sentences on Armenians; 25 years and no capital sentence on Moslems.

Of the three murder-by-Moslem cases, one with two prisoners is pending, and the Procureur-General's attitude appeared slightly biassed in favour of the accused. In another, with two accused, one was sentenced to fifteen years, and his fellow acquitted. The third case is that of a Kurd acquitted on the ground that the Armenian body stabbed by him was not proved to be living.

It must be admitted that seditious sentiments had taken deep root and been widely disseminated among Armenians of and at this city before the 26th August. But no less can it be honestly pretended that the Moslem rabble of Bashi-Bazouks "sopajis" or Kurds, whatever they be called, did go about on the 26th and 27th August, killing innocent as well as revolutionary Armenians wherever found. If, therefore, the authorities were absolutely unprejudiced and impartial, there should surely be as many Moslems charged with taking part in the riots and massacre on *major charges* as there are Armenians charged with crime of *more important* seditious nature; or rather many more, as the fifteen criminals who entered the bank escaped abroad, and the true revolutionists who fought at Psamatia were killed to a man, and probably the great majority of other Armenian agitators elsewhere who attacked or provoked riot. It is true that one hears of the "Fedai," i.e., a small band of these agitators said to have distributed all Constantinople among themselves by quarters, to create sedition at the cost of their lives. The Procureur-Général lately showed a photograph of one of these named Javik, also Jovan, whose case will soon be heard.

In short, I cannot find the Court to blame for its decisions, but think that some objection might be raised to the nature of the cases which come before it.

Why is there not as much energy in hunting out the Kurds and "sopajis" for murdering Armenians as there is in arresting Armenians of all sorts and conditions frequently on the flimsiest charges of sedition?

In the first place, because the hands of the police are full with carrying out His Imperial Majesty's desire to prove (what is quite superfluous) *the whole Armenian people tainted with sedition*; the "Emniyet" (so largely circulated here) of the 5th instant, borrowing from the "New York Herald," as it appears, drives in anew this point on the grounds that lists of Armenians, not participating in the sedition, existed amongst revolutionary papers seized; *ergo*, all the rest are implicated.

In the second place, what Armenian or rayah or even foreigner, assuming him to be in a position to prove the murder of an Armenian by Moslem would denounce, or even give evidence, unless compelled? Any honest Mussulman so doing would be very ill received; a policeman or officer is generally brow-beaten, and no Christian would probably venture.

At the sittings of the Special Court I should calculate only about 5 per cent. of rayahs have given evidence, and this on the most trifling points, whilst possibly nearly 80 per cent. of the evidence has been received from the police or functionaries.

Unfortunately it now begins to appear quite clearly that in every case where Armenians were killed in hans, &c., the efforts of the police are now turned to proving them the aggressors, *e.g.*, the Bebek affair.

The preliminary inquiry is naturally conducted by the police as *they see fit*; subsequently at the hearing and examination before the Juge d'Instruction, there is no means of control or power to help an innocent party. So that when the prisoner's *dossier* comes before the Court it may be full of voluminous evidence against him which he has had inadequate means of refuting, and the charge so fully established, that even if he calls witnesses, who are allowed to appear and venture to do so, the chances are for a conviction.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Constantinople, October 10, 1896.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70.

Memorandum by Mr. Stavrides.

IN addition to Mr. Devey's Memorandum on the judicial proceedings of the Extraordinary Court, it may not be inopportune to submit some appreciation of the manner in which the said Court dealt with some important cases which have been tried when I was present.

One among others was that of Jelal Bey Han at Stamboul, where twenty Armenians were arrested under the charge that, on the night of the disturbances, a bomb was thrown from that han. The indictment was that the pieces of the bomb were found on the roof of an adjoining building, as witnessed by some policemen, and that some of the men who were there arrested had no business to be in the han on that night.

I have carefully listened to the interrogatory of each of them, and it was clear that there was not the shadow of a proof to bring home the crime to any one of them. However, the Court, on the mere evidence of the policemen that they had seen the pieces of the bomb, being ashamed, as it seems to me, to condemn them all, selected two of them at haphazard, and condemned them to ten years' hard labour, while acquitting all the others.

Another striking case was that of Consuelo Han. Nineteen persons, all of them Armenians, have been arrested there, and the indictment stated that, on the day following the disturbance, and on the following Saturday, a shot was fired from the place, although the police up to Monday of the following week did not care to take any proceedings against those who were in the han. The Italian Consul-General obtained the testimony of Maréchal Shakir Pasha that no shot was ever heard from that han.

This written testimony was sent to the Minister of Police through an Italian Dragoman, but has never been taken into consideration. But there was the evidence of a Captain under Shakir Pasha, and some other policemen, who stated that such shots have been heard.

The Court, as in the former case, followed the same system, and condemned four of them to fifteen years' hard labour, without any special proofs against them.

Another striking case is that of Kyuchuk Millet Han, where it is of public notoriety that the sopajis robbed, broke, and destroyed every merchant's office in the place but not

one of them has ever been arrested. On the contrary, they have arrested six Armenians who were porters in the han, and who were known to everybody there as honest men. They had on that day concealed themselves in a cellar in order to avoid being murdered by the sopajis.

The case is not yet finished, but I am afraid that the same system will again prevail, and some or all of them will be condemned on the simple basis of the evidence of policemen—who stated that the shots had been heard—that those Armenians are supposed to be the authors of the same.

I may quote some minor cases which had been tried on the same system. But the above few instances clearly show what justice could ever be expected from a Court on which powerful influence is exercised according to my most accurate information.

Another system now prevails, and that is to arrest men of wealth among the Armenians, and such is the case of Ungian Apik Effendi and Artin Nouradounkian, and others who are likely to follow.

To the cases of the above two gentlemen I shall devote my special attention, and report faithfully the proceedings of the Court.

October 12, 1896.

Inclosure 4 in No. 70.

Mr. Gatheral to Mr. Eliot.

My dear Sir, *Constantinople, October* 10, 1896.

I HAVE your note of the 8th this morning.

In my letter to his Excellency the Ambassador with reference to the Bebek bakers, I distinctly said that I could produce the evidence of the survivors if there was an honest Tribunal, and I added as this is at present impossible, &c.

His Excellency must know that rayahs dare not give evidence against Turks, their doing so would endanger their lives, so that under the present state of things no evidence will be forthcoming. I have heard such evidence which convinces me of the innocence of these bakers, and this led me to address his Excellency the Ambassador, but I cannot produce it, except under the guarantee by an International Tribunal, when the present state of partial and corrupt Courts has become history.

I would refuse myself to give evidence before a Turkish Court, let alone an unprotected rayah. Whatever steps his Excellency the Ambassador may think it wise to take, he must not rely on any evidence which I can produce to support his representations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GATHERAL.

No. 71.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 837.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Aleppo, reporting on the present state of affairs at Marash.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, September* 22, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Major Massy, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, in a despatch addressed to me from Marash on the 15th ultimo, reports, with regard to the present state of affairs in that district, the following important facts:—

1. In spite of poverty amounting to starvation, taxes are still levied forcibly and brutally.

2. People are cast into prison on suspicion and kept there without trial for months at the pleasure of the Government.

3. Roads and districts are not safe for Armenian traffic. If these go out they are either killed or robbed.

4. Trade, therefore, is non-existent, and starvation results. The people beg for means to earn a livelihood. Some trade, such as now started in Marash—embroideries, curtain, and carpet-making—would be a great advantage if introduced for winter employment.

5. More schools, if started, would have a good and civilizing effect.

On receipt of the said despatch I called immediately on the Vali and brought to his notice the above acts of oppression towards the Armenian population, urging his Excellency to take immediate and energetic measures to put an end to these lamentable facts. Raif Pasha appeared to attach special interest to my representations, and requested me to furnish him, unofficially, with a Memorandum on the subject, to which he promises to give his best attention.

As regards Major Massy's suggestion that more schools, if started, would have a good and civilizing effect, I think, under the present circumstances, that any step in this direction would meet with an unsatisfactory result, seeing that the Turkish authorities are daily opposing all sorts of vexations and difficulties with a view to close, if possible, even the existing Christian schools.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 72.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 838.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Fitzmaurice, pointing out the pernicious nature of the Porte's secret circulars to the provincial authorities concerning the Armenian disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Ourfa, September* 6, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 29th August concerning the Ottoman Bank incident in Constantinople.

A Mussulman friend of mine had two days previously informed me that the Armenians in Constantinople had created a serious disturbance, he himself having received the news through a Government official.

On several occasions during my late few months' tour in the provinces, I have similarly learnt that the Sublime Porte has during the last year adopted the system of sending cypher messages to all the provincial authorities, apprizing them of any such incidents as may happen in different parts of the Empire, and enjoining upon them to be on the look-out for similar events in their districts, and to exercise increased vigilance in hunting down sedition, a rather superfluous injunction, considering that the local authorities, as a rule, not only hunt down and magnify real cases of Armonian sedition, but often go out of their way to invent imaginary cases where no real ones exist.

This system was initiated last October, after the Henchaghist demonstration in Constantinople, in consequence of Memdouh Pasha, the present Minister of the Interior, but then Vali of Angora, having telegraphed for information as to the demonstration incident, on the ground that fragmentary news of the occurrence, in the absence of complete details, only tended to unsettle the minds of, and excite the feelings of, both sections of the Angora population.

The motive appears at first sight a good one, but the result, as generally happens in Turkey, was and is disastrous. For the Porte, generally, either willingly or unwillingly, misinformed, telegraphs the first garbled account, and this, becoming known through the officials to the Mussulman population, tends to poison and excite the minds of the latter against the unsuspecting Christians, who are in most cases innocent of any treasonable intentions.

The telegraphic Circular of last year concerning the Armenian demonstration in Constantinople contributed largely to bring about the massacres in the Anatolian provinces. The result of those massacres is a deep-seated hatred on the part of the Moslems towards the utterly cowed and crushed remnants of former Christian populations, and as the perpetrators of those massacres have gone unpunished, very little is required to incite the Moslems to finish last year's work of attempted extermination of the Christians.

The news of this recent disturbance at Constantinople led to a distinct ebullition of fanatical feeling among the Moslems of this town, while at Birejik they became fiercely excited against the former converts to Islam there, and began plotting a fresh massacre. They spread about false rumours, to the effect that the Armenians had strangled a Moslem woman, and exhibited such signs of their murderous intentions that on Saturday, the 5th September, the Armenians sent me a special messenger, who covered the distance of eighteen hours' ride in one night.

On my representations the Mutessarif at once proceeded to the Ourfa telegraph office, and summoned the Birejik Kaïmakam to the Birejik telegraph office. He there conversed with the Kaïmakam, inquiring the real cause of the excitement, and instructed him and the Military Commander to take the strictest measures to prevent any disturbance.

The hatred of the Moslems towards the Christians is so intense in these regions, and the public tranquillity hangs by so slender a thread, that I believe it essential that the Sublime Porte should, if it really desires the maintenance of order in the provinces, cease sending circular telegraphic summaries of these "untoward" incidents.

These events in any case get known all over the interior by the post, muleteers, &c., but the details, in the absence of these telegraphic circulars, would only reach the population after the first bad effect had in great measure worn off.

The situation in these outlying districts, far removed from even the semblance of civilizing influences felt in sea-coast towns, is incredible to those who have not had personal experience of the intense ignorance and fanaticism of the Moslems of the interior, and this matter is one of vital importance to many thousands of helpless and unfortunate Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 73.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 839.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 14, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice, reporting on the proceedings of the Imperial Commission at Ourfa, and the danger to which the Christian population is constantly exposed. He suggests that the presence of an European Consular officer would do much to insure their safety.

I propose to report to your Lordship on the matter when I have discussed it with Mr. Fitzmaurice, who is now on his way to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Ourfa, September 10, 1896.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's telegraphic instructions of the 7th August, I have the honour to report my arrival here on the 27th August, the Commission reaching here on the following day.

Subsequent to the massacre here in December last, some 600 Armenians made a profession of Islam in the hope of preserving their lives in the event of a repetition of that massacre, but during the last eight months the majority have either reverted to their old religion here, or quitted Ourfa to do so elsewhere, there remaining over 200, who still keep up an outward profession of Islamism.

The Commission first assembled the principal Moslem inhabitants, and explained to them that these Armenians were at perfect liberty to revert to Christianity, at the same time instructing them to enjoin on their fellow Moslems to abstain from in any way molesting such converts as should revert.

On the following day, in the presence of the Mutessarif and the Military Commander, they summoned the greater portion of the remaining converts, telling them in the Sultan's name that they were free to re-become Christian; that the Government had not so far officially recognized, and would not in future so recognize them, and that, in the event of their reverting, they would in every way be protected from molestation.

They, however, almost unanimously declared that they were determined to remain in their new religion. I learnt, notwithstanding, from private information, that some really wished to revert, and induced the Commission to summon them privately, whereupon a few declared themselves Christian.

A very large number of Christian girls and boys were carried off by Moslems at the time of the massacre, and, on the application of their relatives, we had a few of these restored to their families, but only after an infinity of pains and negotiations.

The Christians had not ventured to ring their church bells since the massacre in October 1895, and, though ordered by the authorities, on my suggestion, to ring them, they entreated that the matter should not be insisted upon, as it would most probably lead to a disturbance. I, however, insisted, telling the Military Commander and Mutessarif that the matter was a test as to whether their official contention that "perfect tranquillity reigned in Ourfa" was a fact or a sham.

On the Mutessarif repeating his orders, the Christians were induced to ring in a very timid and tentative manner, and, though it led to a certain ebullition of feeling on the part of the Moslems, the authorities took measures to prevent any serious disorder. I then advised the Protestants to ring their bell longer, louder, and more often than heretofore, in order to reaccustom the Moslems to the sound. They did so, and within a few days the unruly portion of the Mussulman population, recognizing the inevitable, ceased their opposition.

In view of the extremely delicate nature of the situation here, I was unwilling that either the conversion question or that of the Armenian girls and children in Moslem houses should be further pressed, as our insistance on saving a couple of hundred might tend to bring about a state of things fraught with great peril to the some ten or twelve thousand Christians left here.

The causes of the peace and tranquillity of this town resting on such an exceedingly frail foundation are the following:—

As reported by me in my despatch from Ourfa in March last, the horrible two days' massacre of thousands of Armenians here on the 27th and 28th December, 1895, plainly proves the savage character and fierce fanaticism of the Moslem population of this town. The object of the massacre was to exterminate the Christians, and, after the massacre, believing their task accomplished, the Moslems announced far and wide that the Christian name had disappeared from Ourfa. When a few days subsequently large numbers of Armenian men began to emerge from wells, drains, under heaps of rubbish, and similar hiding-places, the Moslems manifested a very distinct intention of renewing the work of massacre.

Apart from their general disposition to destroy the Christians, their belief, whether founded or fancied, that their evil deeds will some day be punished, probably by a Christian Power, renders them anxious that these living Christian witnesses against them should be removed by any means, preferably the violent one of massacre, while the only restraining influence is that of the present Mutessarif, Dedeh Pasha, and the Military

Commander, Sahib Pasha, both of whom are men of comparatively enlightened and humane feeling.

Apart from a certain Mustapha Agha, the rank and file of the Moslems are bitterly hostile to the Christians, as are also most of the zaptieh force and Government officials, who were for the greater part, directly or indirectly, implicated in the last massacres.

The Moslems here are then decidedly capable of perpetrating, and disposed to perpetrate, a fresh attempt to exterminate the remaining some 12,000 Christians of Ourfa, and await only an opportunity. Such opportunity would be furnished by the replacing civil and military Governors by men of a less enlightened character, by the recurrence of massacres in Anatolia, or by the Ottoman Islam Government being attacked by some Christian Power.

This perilous situation for these thousands of unfortunate Christians would be minimized by the punishment of some of the instigators of last year's massacre here, or by the presence here for a few years of the representative of a foreign Power.

As regards the first point, the only sign of punishment was the temporary exile to Aleppo of Hussein Pasha, the notorious Moslem Notable of this town, who was the chief instigator, though probably on superior orders, of the massacre here in December last. Through his brother, Mazhar Effendi, functionary at the Constantinople Ministry of Justice, he received the Imperial pardon and returned to Ourfa, as reported by me in my despatch of the 27th June from Birejik. Since his return the threatening attitude of the Moslems has become more pronounced and the general situation much more delicate.

It was he who worked up the Moslems of the city to the last massacre, and assembled several hundreds of Kurds from the neighbourhood to do the same fell work. His permanent exile from Ourfa is most essential in the interests of the peace of this town. Moreover, this is the wish of the Ourfa Mutessarif and the present Vali of Aleppo, and if the Grand Vizier were to demand their opinion on the matter, both officials would, I am confidentially informed by them, report in favour of his exile. It is advisable that these wishes of the Vali and Mutessarif, having been expressed to me confidentially, should not be mentioned to the Sublime Porte.

The exile of Hussein Pasha would take the back out of the anti-Christian hostility here, and be a lesson to his confederates.

Superfluous though the remark may appear, it is certainly a monstrous state of things, not confined, however, to Ourfa, that the ringleader of such a horrible massacre, which took place two months after the general Anatolian disorders of last year and after the arrival of the Sultan's orders for the future protection of the Christians, should go unpunished.

With regard to the second measure of temporarily appointing a foreign Representative, one of the objections likely to be raised, apart from the pecuniary difficultics, would seem to be that the foreign Representatives at Alexandretta and Aleppo ought to suffice for the Vilayet of Aleppo. But this vilayet is unlike most others in this respect, that it possesses several large towns like Antioch, Aintab, Marash, and Ourfa, all containing a large Christian population, and situated at a considerable distance—Ourfa being over 150 miles from Aleppo.

The present extraordinary state of things resulting from the recent outburst of fanaticism, which, fanned from Constantinople, has not yet been checked or curbed by punishment, and consequently is almost certain in the no distant future to break out afresh and vent itself on these helpless Christian populations, being the outcome of some of the many difficult problems which have recently come to an acute stage in the Sultan's dominions, demands extraordinary measures.

A wholesale massacre like that of last December here could not take place without previous preparation and organization, and a foreign Representative here, by being in a position to communicate in cypher with head-quarters, would probably be able to have measures taken to prevent the realization of such sinister designs. There is no doubt that had the Armenians here been able to make known to Constantinople their position during November and December 1895, the massacre of the 27th and 28th December would either not have occurred, or would have been practically abortive.

At the same time that I have ventured to suggest this temporary measure, I am of opinion that the real and only practical solution of the problem of the protection of the Christians in the interior depends on whether Europe is prepared, by united and firm action on the Central Government, to oblige the latter to insure the safety of its Christian subjects in the provinces.

If Europe is not prepared to adopt this course, foreign Consuls in the interior, while able, in the degree of their personal ability, strength of character, and knowledge of the country, to exercise a beneficial influence, would be so many hostages in the hands of the Turkish Government, who could reply to the threats of foreign Powers to use force that,

in the event of an attempt to carry out such threats, the Ottoman Government could not be responsible for the effect on the population of the interior and the safety of foreigners and foreign Representatives resident there.

I should add, as a rather significant feature of the situation here, that the Jewish population of Ourfa is leaving the town. They have a presentiment that the next "incident" here will be directed not solely against the Christians, but against all non-Moslem elements. In fact, this exodus of the children of Israel forcibly reminds one of the action of certain small animals when the ship is about to sink.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 74.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 840.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 14, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice, reporting on the present condition of the Birejik Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Birejik, September 24, 1896.*

ON my return here after my stay in the Ourfa region, I found the Armenians, who had recently reverted from Islamism, enjoying a tolerable freedom from molestation. It is two months and twelve days since they declared themselves Christian, and were it not for the rude shock caused by the echo here of the Ottoman Bank incident, things would have in great measure resumed, at least outwardly, their normal aspect. The Moslems were, as the result of the accounts received by them of the Constantinople disorders, greatly incensed against Armenians in general, and, as related in my despatch of the 10th September from Ourfa, were about to vent their displeasure on the former converts here, were it not for the measures taken by the local authorities. I told the Armenians that they ought to take fresh courage, from the fact that the late disturbances in Constantinople had not been attended with more disastrous consequences to them at Birejik; that before these disturbances at Constantinople one might have feared that such an event would be fraught with peril to the lives of the Birejik former converts, but now that the disturbances had passed off comparatively quietly, it was a proof that the security of their lives and property was being watched over by the Local Government.

I found here on my arrival a Catholic priest from Aleppo, sent by Mgr. Azarian, who was endeavouring to carry out an active propaganda among the non-Catholic Armenians in this town. This gentleman gave out that he was merely awaiting an "order" from Constantinople to make all the Armenians Catholic; that by becoming Catholic they would no longer be the objects of the Sultan's resentment; and that in the event of their adopting the creed of Rome, a French Consul would probably come to protect them.

On his speaking to me in the same sense, I told him plainly that, though no doubt his object in endeavouring to bring heretics and schismatics into what he believed to be the one true fold, might be a most laudable one from his point of view, I considered his action most ill-judged; that the Gregorians and Protestants who might embrace Roman Catholicism would do so not from conscientious motives but in the hope of obtaining security for life; that in my opinion, he was taking an unfair advantage of their present wretched condition, especially as during the last massacre no distinction was made in favour of Catholics, and no such distinction was likely to be made in any future similar event, in which he would himself run just the same risk as the Gregorian priest; and that, were a French Consul to be sent to Birejik, on grounds of common humanity, he would be obliged to extend any protection in his power to non-Catholics as well as Catholics.

In fact I am very much surprised at the conduct of Mgr. Azarian in the matter, a conduct which could only be justified by his Beatitude having received the Sultan's assurances of a solider nature than those usually given even to foreign Powers, that in the event of fresh massacres, Catholics would be spared.

The action of this Abbé in taking advantange of the present fears of the Armenians to convert them to his religion has anything but an edifying effect on the Moslem authorities of this town.

The Kaïmakam and Military Commander have given me positive assurances that no harm will come to the Armenians during their tenure of office here, and though usually sceptical as to the fulfilment of Turkish promises, I am rather inclined to believe in the sincerity of these gentlemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 75.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 841.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1896.*

I HAVE several times had occasion in my despatches and telegrams to draw your Lordship's attention to the Sultan's recent promises to promulgate and execute reforms for the Armenian provinces.

It would appear that during the last three weeks the Russian Embassy have been active in urging his Majesty to fulfil these promises. M. Maximoff, the First Dragoman of the Russian Embassy has become extremely intimate with Izzet Bey, and it is generally believed that they are working together to make some show of executing reforms.

On the 4th October an Iradé was issued sanctioning certain reforms substantially the same as those granted to the Armenian provinces last year, to be introduced in all the vilayets of the Empire, excepting the Hedjaz. A copy of the text was communicated to this Embassy by M. Maximoff, who said that the paper was no secret, and would be published in the press next day. This, however, was not done, and it appears that the Iradé is not likely to be made public at present, so that the whole matter is surrounded with a certain mystery. It is hard to see what is the object of obtaining an Iradé which is neither to be published nor acted upon.

I inclose the text of these reforms as communicated by M. Maximoff, and a Memorandum by Mr. Block upon the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Draft of Reforms to be introduced into all the Vilayets of the Turkish Empire excepting the Hedjaz.

Première Partie.—*Les Vilayets et les Mutessarifliks.*

ARTICLE 1er. Tous les employés des vilayets seront nommés parmi les sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire. Sauf les sujets étrangers qui seront et nommés et acceptés au cervice à des fonctions spéciales par Ordre Impérial.

En vertu du second chapitre de la Loi sur le vilayet du 29 Chouval, 1287, il sera nommé dans tous les vilayets un Mouavin Musulman ou non-Musulman.

Conformément au susdit Règlement les devoirs des Mouavins [? consistent] à aider le Vali dans toutes les affaires et en préparer l'expédition.

Art. 2. Musulmans ou non-Musulmans les Mouavins seront nommés dans les sandjacks et dans les cazas auprès des Mutessarifs et des Caïmacans à la majorité de la population du vilayet.

Deuxième Partie.—*Les Caïmacans.*

Art. 3. Les Caïmacans seront choisis sans distinction de religion parmi les licenciés des écoles civiles ou bien parmi ceux qui se sont déjà montrés aptes à occuper les postes de Caïmacans et seront confirmés par Iradé Impérial.

Art. 4. Les postes dans l'Administration des vilayets seront confiés en raison de la proportion des habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans à des employés Musulmans et non-Musulmans. Le nombre des employés Musulmans et non-Musulmans dans les Administrations de la police et de la gendarmerie sera fixé par le Ministère de l'Intérieur sur des rapports des Valis et confirmés par le Conseil des Ministres, et l'appréciation des décisions y relatives est subordonnée à l'approbation Impériale.

Art. 5. L'élection des membres et les devoirs des Conseils d'Administration des vilayets, livas, et districts (cazas) sont régis aux lois existant dans les vilayets.

Art. 6. "Les cazas seront divisés en nombre de nahiés qui seront jugés nécessaires par l'autorité locale."

Les Mudirs de ces nahiés seront choisis par le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet et confirmés au Ministère de l'Intérieur.

Art. 7. Dans le cas où la population Musulmane du canton (nahié) serait égale à la moitié de la population non-Musulmane aux Mudirs non-Musulmans il sera adjoint un Mouavin Musulman choisi parmi les sujets Ottomans, et si les Mudirs existant actuellement ont démontré leurs capacités ils seront maintenus même s'ils ne possèdent pas de diplômes des écoles Gouvernementales.

Art. 8. Chaque nahié aura un Conseil composé de quatre membres élus par la population de ce nahié. Si la population du nahié est de Musulmans et de non-Musulmans, la moitié des membres de son Conseil sera Musulmane et l'autre non-Musulmane.

Art. 9. Les Mudirs, Mouavins, et les écrivains des nahiés seront rétribués.

Art. 10. Les candidats aux Conseils des nahiés doivent réunir les conditions déterminées par l'Article 10 du Règlement de l'Administration des nahiés.

Art. 11. Les membres des Conseils seront renouvelés chaque année.

Art. 12. Les devoirs des Mudirs et des Conseils des nahiés sont déterminés par le Règlement des nahiés, Articles 20 à 27.

Art. 13. Chaque village (carié) aura un Moukhtar et s'il se trouvait des quartiers habités en partie par des Musulmans et des non-Musulmans il y aura dans chaque quartier et pour chaque catégorie des habitants deux Moukhtars dont l'un Musulman et l'autre non-Musulman.

Art. 14. Il sera nommé un Inspecteur Judiciaire pour un, pour deux, ou pour trois vilayets. Si la population de ces vilayets représente plus de non-Musulmans, l'Inspecteur sera non-Musulman; un adjoint lui sera attaché et leurs attributions sont désignées dans le Règlement des Tribunaux.

Art. 15. Les préposés de police seront proportionnels à la population Musulmane et non-Musulmane et il est bien entendu qu'ils seront pris parmi les Musulmans et les non-Musulmans.

Art. 16. Les préposés de police seront divisés en nombre suffisant pour chaque branche d'Administration, y compris le nahié. Les polices des nahiés seront sous les ordres du Mudir et sous le commandement des Commissaires; leurs armes et uniformes seront conformes aux formes déjà adoptées.

Art. 17. Les officiers supérieurs et inférieurs de la gendarmerie ainsi que les gendarmes seront proportionnels à la population Musulmane et non-Musulmane de chaque vilayet. Ils seront pris parmi les habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire Ottoman.

Les frais de la gendarmerie seront supportés par les Caisses des vilayets. "Le devoir, les attributions, les appointements et les rations des officiers de la gendarmerie et des gendarmes sont désignés dans le Règlement spécial."

Art. 18. Le maintien de l'ordre et l'expédition des postes concerne la gendarmerie.

Art. 19. L'administration des prisons et des maisons de détention sont régies d'après le Règlement spécial.

Art. 20. Les Percepteurs chargés d'encaisser les impôts n'auront pas le droit d'exiger des habitants leur nourriture et celle de leurs chevaux. Pour ne pas donner lieu à l'intervention de la force armée les Moukhtars et les Percepteurs nommés par la population délivreront à chaque habitant un papier constatant le montant de leurs impôts. Ces Moukhtars et Percepteurs seront tenus de remettre dans les Caisses Gouvernementales les impôts reçus.

Art. 21. Les dîmes seront données par affermage. L'affermage des dîmes en bloc étant abolie, l'adjudication aura lieu par carié conformément au Règlement des dîmes en vigueur. Les habitants des villages ont la préférence sur les autres adjudicateurs de dîmes. S'il n'y a aucun demandeur d'affermage pour les dîmes d'un carié, ou bien si le prix offert ne correspond pas à celui du prix offert précédemment, la dîme sera administrée par le Gouvernement conformément au Règlement des dîmes. En cas de différend les habitants pourront s'en référer aux Tribunaux.

La corvée étant abolie en ce qui concerne les travaux publics l'usage des ouvriers payés en argent ou en espèce est maintenu.

Le budget de l'Instruction Publique de chaque vilayet sera fixé par le Ministère Impérial de l'Instruction Publique.

La vente, pour le recouvrement des créances d'un particulier envers l'État, ou envers un autre particulier, de l'habitation, des outils agraires, et des bêtes de somme à l'usage du labour, et nécessaires à son existence, est interdite comme par le passé.

Art. 22. D'après le résultat qui sera obtenu par suite de l'application de ce Règlement ces décisions pourront être modifiées et améliorées.

(Signé) RIFFAT.
ABDUL RAHMAN.
SAÏD.
TEFIK.
MENDOUH.
MAHMOUD.
MEHMED DJELLALEDDIN.
RIZA.
HASSAN.
ZEKI.
NAZIF.
ZUHDI.
TEFFIK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Extract from Memorandum by Mr. Block.

THE reforms now elaborated do not differ much from those of last year's, except that nothing is said of "Councils of Ancients," "Justices of the Peace," "Gardes Champêtres," "Kurds," "Hamidié Cavalry," "Titles to Property," "Incapacity of Government officials to serve on Councils of Nahié." The Moavins (Article 1) may be either Moslem or non-Moslem; the proportion of Mussulmans is to be fixed by the Minister of the Interior (Article 4); non-Moslem Mudirs are to have a Moslem Moavin if the Mussulman population is half that of the non-Mussulman (Article 7); Councils of mixed Nahiés to be half Mussulman and half non-Mussulman, irrespective of the actual proportion (Article 8); and the Judicial Inspectors are to be non-Moslem if the majority of the inhabitants are non-Moslems and to have an adjoint (Article 14).

October 12, 1896.

No. 76.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 845. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1896.

ON the 27th September last Mr. Thompson, Inspector of Police at Her Majesty's Consulate at Constantinople, was sent for by the officials of the Galata Serai to interview an individual who had been arrested and claimed British nationality.

On Mr. Thompson's examining him, the man in question, named Henry Cathogène *alias* Leon M. Gullabian, admitted that he was not a British subject, that he was a member of the Hindchag Society in London, and that he had merely claimed British nationality in order to be put into communication with the British Consulate, to whom he had disclosures to make of the highest importance, which might result in the saving of many lives.

As he admitted that he was not a British subject, Mr. Thompson did not feel

justified in taking any action beyond informing me of the incident. I considered it, however, desirable to ascertain, if possible, what the disclosures were which the man was prepared to make, and sent Mr. Blech, Dragoman Archivist of this Embassy, to the Ministry of Police to inquire about him. Mr. Blech saw Nazim Pasha, the Minister, who stated that Gullabian had already been set at liberty. He had informed the Minister that he had been sent here by the Central Hindchag Committee on a Special Mission to induce the Trochak and local Hindchag Societies to refrain from any further dymanite and bomb demonstrations, and to endeavour to treat between them and the Turkish Government, and, if possible, obtain the execution of some real reforms. His Excellency apparently believed this story, and had deemed it advisable to leave the man at liberty, although under the strict supervision of the police.

Mr. Thompson had an interview with Gullabian on the 27th ultimo, when he informed him that he had twice been sent for to the Palace and interrogated at great length by Izzet Bey, who seemed specially anxious to discover what relations existed between the British Government and the Hindchag Committee. He had also questioned him as to the connection of the Russian Government with the Trochaks at Tiflis.

On the following day Mr. Thompson again saw Gullabian, who informed him that the Trochaks had now agreed to suspend dynamite operations on the following conditions:—

1. That a general amnesty be granted to all Armenians imprisoned for political offences.
2. That all prosecutions of Armenians for political offences be dropped.
3. That the Armenian Assembly be at once convoked for the election of a Patriarch.
4. That the reforms for the Armenian provinces sanctioned last October be executed.

He had seen Izzet Bey with regard to these conditions, who, after some delay, had informed him that the Sultan accepted them in the following somewhat modified form:—

1. The prosecution of Armenians would be discontinued by degrees.
2. The nomination of a Patriarch by the Armenian National Assembly would be allowed as soon as possible.
3. A general amnesty would be granted as a gracious act towards the new Patriarch.
4. The reforms would be executed in the Armenian provinces except in cases where a Kurdish revolt might result from their execution.

In reply to Mr. Thompson's inquiry as to the means in the possession of the Trochak for a further demonstration, Gullabian stated that they were still provided with bombs, and that although their principal leaders had left, there were still a considerable number at Constantinople. Their head-quarters appear to be at Philipoppolis, and it was there that the bombs were manufactured.

The proposed attack on the Embassies was intended not only to punish the Powers for having abandoned the Armenians, but also to terrify Europeans and necessitate their intervention.

On the 3rd instant Mr. Thompson again saw Gullabian. He then stated that the Government had failed to guarantee the execution of the conditions accepted by the Sultan, and that consequently the Trochaks had decided to retain their bombs. He further stated that the Turkish Government were about to appoint a Commission consisting of Diran Bey, son of Artin Pasha Dadian, and two other Armenians to proceed to London and treat with the Central Hindchag Committee there.

Gullabian is still in communication with the Palace through the intermediary of the Governor of Pera: his residence is surrounded by detectives.

His statements as to the mission of Diran Bey to London for the purpose of communicating with the Hinchagists is confirmed from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 77.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received October 20.)

Board of Trade, October 19, 1896.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, the inclosed copy of an entry in the official log of the British steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens," relating to the circumstances connected with the murder of an Armenian stevedore on board the steamer while lying at Constantinople on the 27th August last.

The steamer has only recently arrived in the United Kingdom; and the Board desire me also to inclose, for Lord Salisbury's information, a copy of a further statement by the master respecting the occurrence.

The case appears to have been duly reported to the Port authority, and it does not appear that any further action is required on the part of the Board of Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) INGRAM B. WALKER.

P.S.—Copies of further statements respecting the case, which have just been received, are forwarded herewith.

I. B. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

EXTRACT from the official Log of the Steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens."

Date of the Occurrence entered with Hour.	Place of the Occurrence, or Situation by Latitude and Longitude at Sea.	Date of Entry.	Entries required by Act of Parliament.
August 27, 1896	Constantinople ..	August 27, 1896.	Ship laying alongside the railway wharf discharging coal. Stevedores' men commenced work at 6 A.M., and at about 8 A.M. lots of men came down on the wharf and interfered with one of the stevedores' men, who for refuge jumped on board of this ship; the men, however, followed him on board, knocked him down with sticks on the bridge deck, and afterwards stabbed him. The ship was at the time flying the English ensign. The Turkish men, who it appeared to be afterwards, ransacked the ship all over for Armenians, but found none; they then went ashore. I at once proceeded to the British Consulate and reported the case. We went to the Port authority and gave them notice to remove the body, which they promised to do. When I got on board I found the body had been removed from the ship by policemen from the wharf before the notice had been handed in.

(Signed) H. C. JORGENSEN, *Master.*
GEORGE LEASK, *First Mate.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Inquiry under Section 690 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," into the Circumstances attending the Murder of an Armenian on board the British Steamer "Carl Rahtkens."

I, GEORGE LYNOSS WILSON, of 39, Cliff Street, Whitby, in the North Riding of the County of York, being duly sworn, depose as follows:—

On Wednesday, the 26th day of August last, I was serving as second officer (holding a chief officer's certificate, numbered 00769) on board the steamer "Carl Rahtkens," of Middlesborough, official number 89,718.

On the date named, the said steamer was lying alongside a jetty at the middle of a wharf on the south side of the Golden Horn, below the first bridge at Constantinople.

A dozen or more Armenians had slept on board the night before, being afraid of the Turks. The Armenians were part of the Greek stevedore's men.

There was no disturbance until 8 A.M. on Wednesday aforesaid. At this time the steamer's crew and the stevedores' men (Armenians and others) ceased work for breakfast. I was alone on the quarterdeck aft, when I saw a crowd of fifty or more Turks in plain clothes on the jetty surrounding and beating (with heavy sticks and stones) an Armenian, whose head and face were cut and bleeding.

I shouted down the companion-way to the master, "Here's a disturbance with the Turks and Armenians." The master and chief officer at once came on deck, but by that time the Armenian had struggled away from the mob and got on board the ship. There was a ladder overside. The Greek stevedore said the Armenian was one of his men, and had been working on board that morning. The stevedore further suggested our hoisting the British ensign, and I accordingly (without awaiting any order from the master) ran it up on the flag-staff aft. The Turks stopped at the foot of the ladder, but did not then board the steamer. We dare not attempt to remove the ladder, as they threatened us with stones.

I then went into the cabin for breakfast with the master (H. C. Jorgensen), chief officer, and the Greek stevedore. In about ten minutes I returned to the quarterdeck, the others remaining below, and just as I reached the deck the Turks (still about fifty in number) rushed up the ladder from the jetty and boarded the ship.

The Armenian before referred to had been left on the lower bridge, the bulwarks hiding him from the Turks ashore, but his wounds had not been dressed. A reference had been made to them at the cabin table, and the stevedore had suggested the use of Friar's Balsam, as they were not very serious.

The Turks, however, on boarding the steamer rushed at the poor Armenian with knives, and stabbed him all over his body. I saw the whole of the attack, and at once called up the master, saying, "You had better come up; they are murdering this man outright." The master and others came at once, but the Armenian then lay prostrate, and the Turks were "braying" him with thick sticks. One Turk took the Armenian's purse from his trousers pocket, took out the contents, and threw away the empty purse. I subsequently picked it up and gave it to another Armenian.

In a few minutes the Turks left the ship, and the master went ashore to report the murder to the Consul as (when we were able to approach the Armenian) we found him quite dead—evidently stabbed to death. The other Armenians among the stevedores' men had secreted themselves in the engine-room and fore-peak.

About 9 A.M. several Turks in uniform came on board, inspected the body, and then ordered some Turks in plain clothes (from the shore) to remove it. This was done about 9·30 A.M. The Turks in uniform then left. An hour or so later 200 or 300 Turks came on the wharf and about 50 boarded steamer armed with pistols and knives. All were in plain clothes.

The steamer's engineers had locked themselves in their berths, thus closing the way to the engine-room, and several of the Turks threatened (by signs) to cut my throat if I did not open the doors. I therefore shouted through the key-hole to the chief engineer to open his door. He did so. The Turks then overhauled the engine-room and subsequently the forecastle and other parts of the ship (excepting the cabin), but without finding the Armenians. Some Turks in uniform shortly afterwards returned and drove the mob ashore.

The British ensign was flying all the time.

Seventeen Armenians remained secreted on board until Sunday the 30th August last, when steamer sailed, and they went ashore escorted by officers from the British

Consulate. There had been Turks and Greeks as well as Armenians working among the stevedores' men, but there had been no disturbance among them. Men from the shore committed the murder.

(Signed) GEO. L. WILSON.

Sworn at the Mercantile Marine Office, Custom-house, Whitby, aforesaid, this 13th day of October, 1896.

Before me,

(Signed) W. STEVENSON,
Superintendent of Mercantile Marine.

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Declaration of Mr. H. Jorgensen.

I, HARRY JORGENSEN, Master of steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens," of Middlesborough, official number 89,718, hereby declare that:—

My vessel, the steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens," was at Constantinople discharging a cargo of coal alongside the railway wharf on the Stamboul side, on the 27th day of August last past.

The cargo was being worked, aboard and ashore, by Armenian and Turkish porters.

At about 8 A.M. a mob of Turks, armed with sticks and clubs and long knives, began to assault two of the Armenian porters on shore whilst they were working at the railway trucks. One of these men they killed ashore, and when the other took refuge on board of my vessel about a dozen Turks followed him on board and killed him on the bridge deck. They then over-ran the ship searching for the Armenians known to be working on board, but they failed to find them.

On account of disturbances on shore on the previous day, I had had my ensign "run up" on the flag-staff aft at about 7·45 A.M., or about fifteen minutes before these disturbances began. It was still hoisted when the mob came on board, and it remained hoisted all the day.

I at once made a verbal report of the occurrence to Her Majesty's Consul.

When I returned to the vessel, the mate reported to me that, whilst I was ashore at the Consul's, the vessel had been again overrun by a Turkish mob armed as before, and numbering roughly about 200. These men ransacked the ship fore and aft, and compelled the crew to open all doors except the cabin door, whilst they searched for Armenians. They did not find any, and returned to shore without actually molesting any of my crew.

The Amenians, eighteen in number, remained on board my vessel until Sunday, the 30th August, without further molestation, when they went ashore under protection of Her Majesty's Consul.

I was quite unable to discover the identity of the victim, whose body was taken ashore about an hour after the murder by Turkish police.

From the 27th to the 30th August the Armenians on board were concealed beneath the boilers and in the under fore-peak.

(Signed) H. JORGENSEN.

The aforegoing statement, on sheets numbered 1, 2, and 3, has been signed and declared in my presence this 10th day of October, 1896, at the Mercantile Marine Office, Middlesborough.

(Signed) J. WATSON KERR,
Deputy Superintendent.

Mercantile Marine Office, Middlesborough,
October 10, 1896.

Inclosure 4 in No. 77.

Declaration of Mr. G. Leask.

I, GEORGE LEASK, late mate of the steam-ship "Carl Rahtkens," official number 89,718, hereby declare that, whilst we were discharging at Constantinople on the 26th August last, the stevedores who were working both on board and on the quay unloading the vessel were surprised by an armed band of about 300 Turks coming in upon them.

One of the men, an Armenian, who was on the quay, on seeing them immediately jumped on board, but was quickly caught by the Turks, who swarmed on board after him. They commenced beating him unmercifully with sticks and then stabbed him in several places. The man was quite dead when picked up by the Turkish authorities, who came on board soon after.

The whole affair took place in a few minutes, and nothing could be done to prevent the outrage because of the number of Turks, who were all armed and evidently in search of Armenians.

It was a disgraceful scene to take place on an English vessel and flying the English ensign. The pursuers were more like fiends than men.

There were several other Armenians on board working cargo, who, on seeing the approach of the Turks, immediately went below and hid themselves in different parts of the vessel and remained there until ship was ready for leaving, when they went on shore under police protection.

(Signed) GEORGE LEASK.
60, *Henry Nelson Street, South Shields.*

Witness,
(Signed) S. S. ROBSON,
Mercantile Marine Office, South Shields,
October 16, 1896.

No. 78.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 430.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 20, 1896, 5·30 P.M.

THE Sultan has just issued an Iradé ordering a forced loan of 5 piastres per man to be raised from all Mussulmans, the money thus obtained to be employed in arming the Mussulman population against the Christians in defence of Islam.

Mahmoud Jellal-ed-din has been named President of the Commission appointed to put this Iradé into execution.

No. 79.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 431.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 20, 1896.

MR. MONAHAN telegraphs from Bitlis to say that Shakir Pasha will probably leave there for Sairt on Saturday. He made representations to his Excellency about the continued collection of taxes by gendarmes in villages which were plundered last year, and which have been, and still need to be, in receipt of relief.

Shakir replied that he would look into the matter, but observed that, in the present financial straits, it was difficult to show leniency.

No. 80.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.**

(No. 260. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 20, 1896.*

THE recent lamentable occurrences in Asiatic Turkey, succeeded by the massacre of Armenians in the streets of Constantinople, give evidence of a state of maladministration and insecurity in the Ottoman Empire which cannot fail to be a subject of great solicitude to the Powers who have joined in guaranteeing that Empire.

The successive periods of urgent peril through which the Ottoman Government has passed in consequence of its inability to provide the elementary conditions of good government for its Christian subjects have powerfully affected the political history of Europe during the present century. The European Powers have, in the interests of general peace, earnestly desired to maintain the fabric of the Ottoman Empire, at least in that extensive portion of it in which the mixed character of the population makes an autonomous Christian Government impossible. But they have sought with equal earnestness, by the constant exercise of their influence, and from time to time by the conclusion of special stipulations, to secure due protection in these regions to the Christian subjects of the Porte.

The Treaty of Paris of 1856, by Article VII of which the Great Powers bound themselves to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and guaranteed in common the strict observance of that engagement, contained also the following Article :-

"Article IX.—His Imperial Majesty the Sultan having, in his constant solicitude for the welfare of his subjects, issued a Firman which, while ameliorating their condition without distinction of religion or of race, records his generous intentions towards the Christian populations of his Empire, and, wishing to give a further proof of his sentiments in that respect, has resolved to communicate to the Contracting Parties the said Firman emanating spontaneously from his sovereign will.

"The Contracting Powers recognize the high value of this communication. It is clearly understood that it cannot, in any case, give to the said Powers the right to interfere, either collectively or separately, in the relations of His Majesty the Sultan with his subjects, nor in the internal administration of his Empire."

The preliminary Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey in 1878 at San Stefano contained the following Article, pledging the Sublime Porte to carry into effect the necessary reforms in the provinces inhabited by Armenians :—

"Article XVI.—As the evacuation by the Russian troops of the territory which they occupy in Armenia, and which is to be restored to Turkey, might give rise to conflicts and complications detrimental to the maintenance of good relations between the two countries, the Sublime Porte engages to carry into effect, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to guarantee their security from Kurds and Circassians."

This Article was replaced in the European Treaty which resulted from the Congress of Berlin by one containing a pledge of a more stringent character to all the Signatory Powers, of which the following is the text :—

"Article LXI.—The Sublime Porte undertakes to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds.

"It will periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who will superintend their application."

The views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Treaty were set out by me in a despatch, in which, as one of the British Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin, I described its main provisions. I observed that by the action of the Great Powers rich and extensive European provinces had been restored to the Sultan's rule, while at the same time careful provision against future misgovernment had been made, which would, it might be hoped, assure their loyalty and prevent a recurrence of the calamities which had brought the Ottoman Power to the verge of ruin.

I added :—

"Arrangements of a different kind, but having the same end in view, have provided for the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan security for the present, and the hope of prosperity and stability in the future.

"Whether use will be made of this—probably the last—opportunity, which has been thus obtained for Turkey by the interposition of the Powers of Europe, and of England in particular, or whether it is to be thrown away, will depend upon the sincerity with which Turkish statesmen now address themselves to the duties of good government and the task of reform."

The reforms promised in Article LXI of the Treaty formed the subject of discussions between the Porte and the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople in 1880, but these discussions unfortunately led to no practical result.

In April 1883, Earl Granville, then Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, directed the Marquess of Dufferin, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, again to bring the subject before the Sultan. He concluded with these words :—

"Her Majesty's Government are actuated by a sincere desire for the welfare and stability of the Ottoman Empire. They have pressed upon the Sultan the introduction of reforms primarily on behalf of the suffering populations, but also from the conviction that, without great improvements in general government, and in the administration of justice, there can be no content, and that with peoples of various nationalities and different faiths, such as those who inhabit the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, the maintenance of order is rendered doubly difficult by gross misgovernment, and a total absence of justice. In fact, the present state of Asia Minor is such that the grievances under which its inhabitants labour may at any moment bring about an insurrection which may lead to foreign intervention. It would then be not a question only of a further loss of territory in Asia, but the very existence of the Sultan's Empire might prove to be at stake."

Again, in 1886, a despatch was addressed by the Earl of Rosebery to Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, of which the substance was communicated to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in August of that year. In this despatch a hope was expressed that the attention of the Sultan and his Ministers might be directed to questions of internal reform, and that, in the consideration of that subject, the means of improving the condition of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey might not be neglected.

Lord Rosebery continued :—

"Her Majesty's Government have repeatedly pointed out the necessity for such measures. They have urged on the Porte the introduction of reforms in the collection of the taxes and the administration of justice, a more careful selection and supervision of the local officials, more effectual provision for the security of life and property, for the preservation of law and order, and for the protection of the industrious and peaceful portion of the inhabitants of the Eastern provinces from the depredations of the Kurds. All these reforms, in addition to their effect on public feeling, would operate to the advantage of the Imperial revenues, and any progress towards keeping the Kurdish tribes under proper control would also tend to remove a source of constant irritation and danger on the Persian frontier.

"The efforts of Her Majesty's Government during the recent troubles have been directed to the maintenance of the settlement effected under the Treaty of Berlin in the sense most favourable to the peace and tranquillity of the Ottoman Empire. Their policy in this respect has been dictated by feelings of sincere friendship for Turkey, and of respect for Treaty obligations. It is from the same motives that they feel it incumbent upon them to urge whenever the opportunity offers the duty of fulfilling the engagements of the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. The absence of all serious attempt to introduce the reforms promised in that Article is, in their opinion, a source of danger to the future integrity of Turkey, and might at a critical moment tend to embarrass, and even paralyze, the friendly sympathies of the Signatory Powers."

The massacre of Armenians which took place in the district of Sasun in the summer of 1894 brought the subject once more into notice, and showed the urgent necessity of steps being taken to secure the fulfilment of the promises which had been made seventeen years before. The result of a prolonged negotiation was the acceptance by the Sultan of a scheme intended to assure to the provinces

* Similar despatches, *mutatis mutandis*, were addressed to Mr Howard (No. 420), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 247), Sir E. Monson (No. 139), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 145).

where Armenians formed a considerable proportion of the population such institutions as would afford to them the elements of equitable government. Unfortunately, a few days before the consent of the Sultan had been obtained to this arrangement, a demonstration in the streets of Constantinople led to a disturbance in which, whether by the fault or the neglect of the authorities, numbers of Armenians, who cannot be held to have been guilty of any serious offence, were murdered or brutally ill-treated. This occurrence was followed shortly by sanguinary attacks on the Armenians in various parts of Asia Minor, resulting in the loss of many thousands of lives, enormous destruction of property, and widespread distress among the survivors. These attacks may possibly in some cases have originated in disturbances commenced by Armenian agitators, but it is impossible not to hold the Turkish authorities, civil and military, mainly responsible for them and for their effects. They have been succeeded by a massacre at Constantinople, in which it is estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 lives of innocent persons have been sacrificed, which has every appearance of having been in some way organized by authority, and which certainly might, either wholly or in great part, have been prevented by timely action on the part of the Turkish military forces.

In the meanwhile, though the consent of the Sultan was given twelve months ago to the plan of reforms for the Armenian vilayets, no real progress has been made towards putting them in execution beyond the appointment of a few Christian officials.

It is impossible, on a review of these events, not to feel how great is the insecurity of the lives and property of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and how oppressive the misgovernment under which Christians and Moslems are suffering alike. The whole population of the Asiatic provinces is in a state of discontent and unrest, the soldiers and gendarmerie are suffering from want of pay, which is in many cases several months in arrear, the officials are powerless to exercise control. It seems that at any moment the fanatical feelings of certain sections of the Mussulman population may be excited into savage attacks on those who differ from them in creed, and that no reliance can be placed on the energy or good-will of those whose duty it is to provide for the preservation of the public peace.

The indiscriminate and wide-reaching slaughter of which the Turkish officials, and a portion of the Moslem population under their guidance or with their connivance, have been guilty, has had for its nominal aim the maintenance of the Sultan's Government. But it has had the effect of bringing the stability of that Government into greater peril than it has yet encountered. It has resulted either in exterminating or in driving away a large portion of the classes by whom the industry and trade of the country was carried on, and has reduced to the utmost extremity the material resources of the Government. Financial collapse threatens the military strength by which the Empire is supported, while the atrocious cruelty of many of those by whom the Government is administered has roused among Christian nations a sympathy and an indignation of unexampled intensity; and there is little probability that the Christian subjects of the Porte will submit again quietly to the oppression under which they have hitherto suffered. It necessarily follows that the causes which threaten the stability of the Empire are constantly gaining in force, while the forces which sustain it are melting away.

It is the common object of the European Powers that the Turkish Empire should be sustained, because no arrangement to replace it can be suggested which would not carry with it a serious risk of European conflict. The predominant importance of this consideration has led the European Powers to protect the Turkish Empire from dissolution, under the hope that the many evils by which the Ottoman rule was accompanied would be removed or mitigated by the reforming efforts of the Government. Not only has this hope been entirely disappointed, but it has become evident that unless these great evils can be abated, the forbearance of the Powers of Europe will be unable to protract the existence of a dominion which by its own vices is crumbling into ruin. It is difficult to say with confidence that any change that can be made will now prevent the threatened danger; but so long as the possibility of averting it exists, the Powers will feel it to be a matter of duty as well as matter of prudence, after satisfying themselves as to the changes which are the most urgent and best calculated to have a salutary operation, to provide effectively for those changes being carried through. Great authorities have up to this time been strenuously opposed to any measures by which Europe should become in any sense responsible for the internal administration of the Turkish Empire. The arguments against such a policy undoubtedly are very cogent, and nothing but the urgency and the imminence

of the dangers which attach to a purely negative policy would justify us in disregarding them. All the Powers of Europe are at one in desiring to maintain the territorial *status quo* of the Turkish Empire, and those Powers whose territories lie nearest to that Empire are most strongly impressed with this necessity. Their convictions upon this point may be sufficient to guarantee the Empire from any possible shock arising from external aggression, but they will not save it from the effect of misgovernment and internal decay.

The consultation of the Six Ambassadors at Constantinople appears to have been accompanied with a favourable result in dealing with the disorders of the Island of Crete. Their guidance is probably superior to any other that we can command, and I think we shall do wisely to commit to them the larger problem presented to us by the general condition of the Turkish Empire, and especially those portions of the Empire which are inhabited in considerable proportion by a Christian population. I propose that the Six Powers should instruct their Representatives to consider and report to their Governments what changes in the Government and administration of the Turkish Empire are, in their judgment, likely to be most effective in maintaining the stability of the Empire, and preventing the recurrence of the frightful cruelties by which the last two years have been lamentably distinguished. But before those instructions are given, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that provision ought to be made that any resolution to which the Powers may, in consequence, unanimously come should be carried into operation. It is an object of primary importance that the concert of Europe should be maintained; and as long as any of the Powers, or any one Power, is not satisfied with the expediency of the recommendations that are put forward, no action in respect to them can be taken. But if any recommendations made by the Ambassadors should approve themselves to all the Powers as measures suitable for adoption, it must not be admitted, at the point which we have at present reached, that the objections of the Turkish Government can be an obstacle to their being carried into effect. I trust that the Powers will, in the first instance, come to a definite understanding, that their unanimous decision in these matters is to be final, and will be executed up to the measure of such force as the Powers have at their command. A preliminary agreement to this effect will greatly facilitate the deliberations of the Ambassadors, and will prevent much of the evasion and delay by which ameliorations in Turkish administration have on former occasions been obstructed.

I request that you will read the above despatch to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and leave a copy of it with him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 81.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 311. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1896.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your own information only, a copy of a despatch which I have to-day addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and St. Petersburgh,* proposing a joint consultation of the six Ambassadors at Constantinople as to the steps to be taken for the introduction of reforms in the Administration of the Ottoman Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 82.

Mr. Howard to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 313.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 21, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 420, Confidential, of yesterday's date, on the subject of the steps which, in your Lordship's opinion, should be taken to insure the maintenance of the stability of the Turkish Empire, and to prevent the

* No. 80.

recurrence of the recent frightful cruelties, I have the honour to report that, at an interview accorded to me this afternoon by M. Hanotaux, I carried out the instructions contained in that despatch.

His Excellency, in accepting a copy of the same, requested me to inform your Lordship that he would take it into his immediate consideration, and would return an answer at as early a date as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 83.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 23, 1896.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI, to whom I read your Lordship's despatch No. 123, Confidential, on the 20th instant, quite agrees with the proposals put forward, and states that his own views as to the expediency of general reforms in the Ottoman Empire have always been the same, but that Prince Lobanow, on the occasions when he sounded him on the subject, refused to listen to any such attempt being made.

A telegram has now been received from the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, stating that M. Chichkine declares that France and Russia have come to an agreement on the question of reforms, and that their views are, in his belief, shared by England.

No. 84.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 320.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 24, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 835 of the 14th instant, relative to a request made by the Turkish Government to the foreign Representatives at Constantinople for permission to search foreign ships on their arrival, with a view to discover any Armenian revolutionists who might be concealed on board.

Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the note which you and your colleagues addressed to the Porte in reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 847.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the arrest of alleged Armenian revolutionaries on information given by Armenian Notables, and commenting on the increased confidence shown by the latter in so doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that two alleged Armenian revolutionary agents were arrested in Erzeroum three or four days ago, while gendarmes who were sent out to arrest three more who were said to be in hiding at the Monastery of Lusadoritch

Vank, at about 4 miles from the city, did not succeed in effecting their purpose. One of the men arrested had a rifle marked with the stamp of the Tashnaktsagan, or "Unionist" Committee.

As the Vali says, the satisfactory feature in this affair is the fact that the presence of these dangerous visitors was notified to his Excellency by some of the Armenian Notables. At Erzeroum formerly, as now in the other Armenian vilayets, I believe it would have been almost impossible to find an Armenian, not being a Government spy, to denounce a revolutionary agent to the authorities. This disinclination arose, not so much out of sympathy for the revolutionaries, as from the certainty that only harm would result to a large number of innocent persons who would be imprisoned and ill-treated as "accomplices" of the really guilty parties. Now, however, the Armenians of Erzeroum are beginning to be convinced of the honesty of Raouf Pasha's efforts to maintain order, and they recognize that the chief danger of a revival of massacres here lies in the chance of some rash act on the part of the revolutionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 86.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 848.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting on the military movements on the Russian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in addition to the movements of troops reported in my despatch No. 76 of the 4th July, the 23rd Regiment of artillery and the 19th Regiment of cavalry are said to be under orders to proceed from Erzingian to Erzeroum. With regard to the cavalry regiment I was misinformed when I stated in my above-mentioned despatch that it had already arrived at Erzeroum. Six new Krupp field-guns arrived here last week from Trebizond, and I hear that a considerable quantity of ammunition has been received lately, a good deal of which I have seen being conveyed to the forts around the city.

No doubt some portion of this activity is to be accounted for by the desire to increase the available force on the frontier, so as to prevent incursions of Armenian revolutionaries, and at the same time to be able to hold the Mussulman population in check if it is thought advisable to do so. Public opinion, however, is impressed by the continued movement of troops towards the Eastern frontier, and especially by the increase in the artillery force, and I have repeatedly been asked whether there is any reason to apprehend an approaching conflict with Russia.

On the other hand, the large body of Russian troops which took part in the usual summer exercises at Sari Kamish, was dispersed at the customary date on the 1st (13th) September, thereby dispelling some at least of the fears and expectations of an approaching Russian occupation. It must be added that travellers, chiefly Russian Armenians, arriving here from that district, report that the bulk of these troops have not returned to their usual stations but remain for the present within reach of the frontier at Kars, Kaghizman, Olti, and Ardahan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 87.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 849.) *Constantinople, October 16, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the expulsion of the Armenian revolutionists from Van, of which a brief account has already been sent to your Lordship in my telegram No. 410 of the 24th September.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Vice-Consul Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 29.) *Van, September 20, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, that as anticipated in my last despatch, there has been further trouble with the revolutionists, who seem determined to do their best to cause the entire destruction of their countrymen. On the 15th September, when I wrote my despatch, it was generally known that four or five of these people were concealed in the town, and the authorities were pressing the Armenians to point out their hiding-places. I have continually pointed out to the Armenian Notables the absolute necessity of their dissociating themselves and their people from this revolutionary movement. I found that the difficulty was not that they were any longer in sympathy with these criminals, but that no one could be found among them with sufficient pluck to "bell the cat." I therefore proposed to the authorities that an Armenian Committee should be formed which could act in its corporate capacity. The Vali and Saad-ed-Din Pasha quite agreed with my views, and on the reported arrival of a band of revolutionists from Persia on the night of the 17th September, a Committee of the leading Armenians was hastily formed, and set to work to discover where these men were hidden. It was the more necessary to act quickly as it had become notorious that those here were only the forerunners of a larger party still believed to be on the frontier.

On Monday morning the Committee was able to report that some of the revolutionists had been located, and the most elaborate preparations were made to control the Mahommedan population and the Kurds, the great fear being that as soon as the firing began, the former would break loose and begin a massacre which would extend over the whole province.

On Tuesday afternoon, the 21st September, the house in which the revolutionists had taken refuge was attacked and burnt, most of them managing to slip through the soldiers. Encouraged by the protection afforded them, the Armenians now set to work in earnest, and next morning brought news that the revolutionists, numbering in all about fifty, occupied three houses in another part of the "gardens" quite close to the Consulate. Saad-ed-Din delayed moving the troops until late in the afternoon, explaining that he had waited to get the Moslem population all off to their work, he himself taking up a position between the Mahommedan and Christian quarters. Two weak battalions with two mountain guns were detailed to settle the matter, but I am sorry to say that owing to the bad shooting of the gunners and the want of training of the infantry officers, the revolutionists again escaped, this time into the country, with the loss of perhaps two or three of their number and their main supply of cartridges, which we could hear popping off in the fire. They appear to have retreated during the night in a most leisurely manner, and the next day were met by a few soldiers who were on their way to Van. Various stories are current as to what happened after this. There appears to be no doubt they had an encounter with some Redifs and Kurds without much harm on either side. Last night three of the band came into a village about 2 miles from Van to get food. The alarm was given, and after firing at and wounding a Mahommedan of the town whom they met on the road, they fled to the hills near by. What the future has in store for the wretched Christians of this town it is hard to say; all depends on keeping the revolutionists out.

The Notables among the Armenian population assure me that immediately any

get in, news will be given to the Turkish authorities. If only a few get into the town they can be easily turned out, but if any considerable body were to arrive it would be difficult to restrain the Mahommedan population. The latter are very much excited, both at the news from Constantinople and at the action of the revolutionary bands, but little more is required for them to get completely out of hand. However, if the Armenian population are firm in their resolution to have nothing more to do with the revolution, and I think they will be, I have hopes that we may get over our difficulties and that there will be more or less of a *rapprochement* between the two nations.

I believe the Turkish authorities are really in earnest in trying to settle matters here, and considering the dangerous state of religious fanaticism which has been aroused, I am of opinion that they are deserving of every commendation. I have had considerable experience of Mahommedans, and your Excellency will forgive my saying that I think few people in England realize what terrible results may come from this fanaticism if it breaks bounds—results to which the terrible events of the last year would be child's play. Deeply as I sympathize with the Christian population of this country, I am obliged to confess that it is not the Turks alone who are to blame. Reforms to be of any real use must take the form of decentralization, and the selection of officient and trustworthy officials, a certain number of whom are to be found even in Turkey. Further, it must be made clear that the reforms are for all alike, and not for any section of the population.

I believe that if these revolutionists could be got rid of, there is still time to save this country. I believe that most, if not all, of the intelligent Turks realize thoroughly that it is a matter of life and death to them, and would welcome with open arms any scheme which would do away with this state of anarchy, provided it was made clear that the religious power of Islam was not endangered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 88.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 850.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 700 of the 5th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah reporting on the general state of affairs in the Hedjaz.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Acting Consul Husain to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 104.)

Sir, *Jeddah, September 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I am informed by my Dragoman, who is now at Taif, that the inquiries made by the Grand Shereef in connection with the robberies on the Mecca road have elucidated that Hamid-bin-Naffaa and Abdulla-bin-Masud, Chiefs of the Kabila Sahaf of the Harb tribe, are responsible for all the recent troubles. Hamid-bin-Naffaa is the same man who, according to the general belief of the people of this town, was the chief leader of the party which last year committed the outrage on the Consuls.

I believe there are men at Jeddah who appear to know a good deal about the motive of the last year's outrage and the real perpetrators of the crime.

Sometime ago, the same Hamid-bin-Naffaa was summoned by the Grand Shereef at Mecca, but he refused to obey the orders, and replied that, in his behaviour in connection with the last year's affair, he did neither more nor less than carrying out the instructions of the Grand Shereef, but now as he was not sure of his safety, though offered a free pardon by the Grand Shereef, he did not feel inclined to obey the orders of his Highness and to place himself in jeopardy. The allowance of grain by the

Turkish Government for this Chief and his Kabila having been stopped, he began to give troubles on the Mecca road.

Notwithstanding the repeated demands of this and other Consulates here to the Vali to secure the safety of the roads, no improvements in the matters have been effected to the present, and the roads are in a very unsafe state still.

On the night of the 26th instant some travellers, who were coming down from Mecca on mules, were again attacked and robbed, and it is apprehended by all here that the dark nights of this lunar month will not pass without a big robbery on the Mecca road. It was understood here that the safety of the road between Yambo and Medina will be restored by the liberation of the Bedouins who were in custody at Mecca since the last Bedouin attack of Yambo, and the payment of the promised indemnity to them. But though the prisoners have been released the road is still closed, and I suppose it is most likely because the indemnity promised by the Turkish authorities has not been paid.

Shukri Pasha, the Assistant Commander of the Hedjaz, who was acting here as Kaimakam after the departure of Omer Ali Effendi, has been recalled to Taif by the Vali to attend a Military Council which was to be held there, and it is understood that Shukri Pasha is not to come back to Jeddah. Assad Mukhlis-bin-Zobeir, Mohassibji, or the Treasurer and the Head Assistant of the Kaimakam, is acting here as Kaimakam, and it is not known up to this time who will replace him.

It was a rumour here that sending of an expedition against the above-mentioned two Bedouin Chiefs was under consideration, but I doubted it very much from the beginning.

I suppose something more serious than the question of these Bedouins is occupying the thoughts of the Turkish authorities, and a recent order to stop all the newspapers coming from outside, and to examine certain suspected letters, has changed the public opinion also about the matters, and though nothing has yet transpired, but on account of this recent precautionary step adopted by the Turkish Government the public mind is getting suspicious and restless. The people here say that whatever may be the object of this concentration of troops, there is no doubt about this, that the Turkish troops have never been in such numbers in the Hedjaz as they are at present.

As far as I could ascertain, there are about 4,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry at Taif, about 1,000 infantry at Mecca, and about 2,000 infantry at Jeddah and the fortresses on Mecca road.

I am also informed that erection of four fortresses in the Hedjaz has been sanctioned, and Taif and Leeth each will have one, and Jeddah two. At Jeddah one fortress will be built near the present military barracks on the north of the town, and the other will be erected on the Yemen side of the town, *i.e.*, on the south.

Leeth, where one of the fortresses is to be built, is a place on the coast between Jedda and Hodeidah, but only about 175 miles from the former. Materials for the erection of these new buildings at this place are being collected, and a large quantity of timber has been purchased by the Turkish Government from one of the English subjects, who imports it from Singapore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. MOHAMMED HUSAIN.

No. 89.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 851.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 16, 1896.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 206 of the 6th October, transmitting copy of a letter from the late Archbishop of Canterbury relative to the condition of the Nestorians, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van for a report on the subject.

Major Williams answers that from information which he received on the 4th instant the prospects of the Nestorians were better, and refers to his despatch No. 28, copy of which was sent to your Lordship in my despatch No. 785 of the 30th ultimo. As I then had the honour to state, I caused representations to be made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the condition of the Nestorian districts and the complaints about the Kaimakam of Shuttakh. His Excellency, who seemed more or less to realize the dangerous nature of the situation, promised to make immediate inquiries, but has not as yet given me any reply on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 90.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 852.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora reporting the departure of conscripts for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Angora, October 14, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that 1,759 conscripts have left Angora for Constantinople since that date, making a total of 2,051 in all since the 13th August, date on which the first drafts were dispatched from here.

Moreover, I am given to understand that the arrival here of other conscripts is still expected, so that I shall have further departures to report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 91.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 855.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 20, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 783 of the 30th ultimo I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora, reporting on the Turkish attack on Armenians in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Angora, October 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 24th ultimo, giving supplementary details concerning the attack made on Armenians by Turks in Angora on the evening of the 18th September, I have now the honour to report further to your Excellency as follows.

There are at present fifteen Turks in prison in connection with these disorders, the rest, about twenty-five, having been released. Three of the former were condemned by the Criminal Section of the Court of First Instance to six months' imprisonment, but they have appealed against the sentence on the ground of its excessive severity. Of three other prisoners one is a Captain of zaptiehs and two are privates, who are charged with giving utterance to cries with intent to incite the

Mussulman population against the Armenians. The zaptiehs have been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, but, I am informed, there is not sufficient evidence against the Captain to insure his condemnation.

Ali Bey, the Professor of the Idadiyé School, is still in prison. He was condemned to three months' imprisonment, it appears, but, on appeal, his sentence was reduced to one of three days' imprisonment only, whereupon the Vali, who appears to have changed his mind as to the degree of culpability of the accused, protested and insisted on keeping Ali Bey in prison until he (the Vali) had communicated on the subject with the Minister of the Interior.

Vasfi Bey, the Lieutenant of Regulars who shot a Turk, mistaking him, it is generally supposed, for an Armenian, is still under arrest. For a long time the Armenian doctor who was in attendance on him pronounced him to be mad, but now, I hear, he is said to have recovered his senses. It is very generally hinted here that Vasfi Bey's madness was feigned, but that is not, I believe, the doctor's opinion.

I will not fail to communicate to your Excellency the nature of the sentences passed on the remaining prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 92.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 856.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Jerusalem reporting the departure of 400 recruits for the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Acting Consul Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Jerusalem, October 8, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that 400 recruits left this city on the 6th instant for the Hauran, by way of Nablus, to replace the men who have recently been disbanded from the battalions stationed in that district.

It is reported that further contingents of troops will shortly be sent to the Hauran from this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 93.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 190. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, October 21, 1896.*

THE following are the facts reported by Mr. Brophy upon which he founded his Secret and Confidential telegram, which I had the honour to repeat to your Lordship in my telegram No. 22 of the 16th instant.

A young Armenian refugee, of good family, owing his life to the friendship of a Greek merchant at Constantinople, privately requested another person at Varna to contrive to convey to the merchant a letter urging him, and through him his own father, to escape from Constantinople as soon as possible, because, in the event of the Armenian grievances not being redressed by, or shortly after, the Emperor of Russia's return to St. Petersburgh, the Armenian Revolutionary Societies had determined to provoke another general massacre at Constantinople.

An Armenian journal of the 14th instant, published at Varna, contains a proclamation of the Constantinople Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dasohnaktzouthioun, containing a threat to resort to measures of greater violence, and leading to more terrible and general retribution than those which have hitherto been employed.

Mr. Brophy's information is moreover confirmed from Philippopoli by Mr. McGregor, who has been told by a gentleman, who can be trusted, that an individual who is in communication with the Macedonian Society there, and who has been engaged for some time past in smuggling bombs to Constantinople, had told him that a fresh outbreak would be provoked at Constantinople if the Armenian grievances were not attended to soon after the Emperor's return to St. Petersburgh.

With reference to my telegram of the 16th instant, Sir Philip Currie was so good as to inform me that Ohanessian, the revolutionary agent referred to by Mr. Brophy, is a Russian subject and a Turkish spy, and I repeated this information to Mr. Brophy, who now wires to me that, however this may be, the reorganization of the Secret Societies into the Daschnaktzouthioun Federation was undoubtedly Ohanessian's doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 94.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 318. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 23, 1896.*

I CALLED upon Baron von Marschall this afternoon for the purpose of reading to him your Lordship's despatch No. 217, Confidential, of the 20th instant, containing your Lordship's proposals as to the instructions to be sent to the Representatives of the Six Powers at Constantinople to "consider and report to their Governments what changes in the Government and Administration of the Turkish Empire are, in their judgment, likely to be most effective in maintaining the stability of the Empire, and preventing the occurrence of the frightful cruelties by which the last two years have been lamentably distinguished," and expressing the hope that the "Powers will in the first instance come to definite understanding, that their unanimous decision in these matters is to be final, and will be executed up to the measure of such force as the Powers have at their command."

Baron von Marschall listened with the greatest attention to your Lordship's despatch, and, on my handing him a copy it, said that he could not give me a definite answer without bestowing great attention and consideration on so important a document, but that he could tell me at once that the German Government would gladly join in any steps, on which the Great Powers might unanimously agree, with the object of maintaining the integrity of the Turkish Empire, and of improving the condition, not only of the Armenian, but of all the subjects of the Sultan, to whatever race or religion they might belong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 95.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, October 26, 1896.*

THIS morning I carried out the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 140, marked Confidential, of the 20th instant, relative to the affairs of Turkey, when I read the despatch to, and left a copy in the hands of, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency, after listening very attentively to the contents of the despatch,

assured me that the Italian Government were very desirous that the accord of the Great Powers in the affairs of Turkey should be maintained with a view to the adoption of reforms both in the administration and in the government of the Ottoman Empire; and his Excellency stated that he was prepared to support Her Majesty's Government in the efforts which they proposed to make in conjunction with the Great Powers for the carrying out of reforms in the Ottoman Empire.

No. 96.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 857.) *Therapia, October 20, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further communication from Kharput concerning the massacre which took place at Eghin in September last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie from Kharput.

Kharput, September 29, 1896.

THE news which I gave last week concerning Eghin was derived chiefly from two candid Turks who were there at the time of the massacre. All the letters which I have seen agree in fixing the estimate at about 2,000 as the number of the killed. More women and children, in proportion, seem to have suffered this fate than in any previous massacre of which I know. Many of the dead were left in the streets for days as the food for dogs, and large numbers were thrown into the Euphrates. They have been seen floating down the river 40 or 50 miles below the city. In some cases, whole families have been obliterated. Exact statistics, of course, cannot be given now, but it is feared that 2,000 is an under-estimate. This is a large proportion in an estimated population of between 5,000 and 6,000 Christians. The letters give the number of houses as 1,100, and of these it is said that only about 150 are left.

This carnage of blood and fire lasted from Tuesday the 15th to Thursday the 17th. I am glad to say Apel, the youngest of the four sons of Nicoghos Effendi Janguchian, was saved. All the testimony concurs in showing that the massacre was official, and that it was wholly without reason. There was no disturbing element, except in the imagination of a few officials. They had alarmed the Central Government.

The Vali and the Military Commander were in the telegraph office here most of the time from the beginning to the end, communicating with Eghin and Constantinople. As far as I can learn, the people made no resistance whatever, and no Turks were killed, except possibly later in the division of the spoils. There were no Kurds in the place. The work was done by citizens and soldiers. The massacre extended to several of the Eghin villages, but we have no details. The Local Government is constant in its assurance that no further massacres will take place in this region, and a good deal of energy is shown in restraining the turbulent elements.

Five people were killed in the Eghin villages, one of them a priest, but the timely arrival of the soldiers prevented a general massacre. After all that has happened, it is not surprising that the Christians have no source of security, and that they are unnerved by fear. The destitution of the coming winter threatens to be almost as great as last year.

No. 97.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 858.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the completion of Naoum Pasha's tour through the Lebanon, and an interview which he had with his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 62.)

Sir, *Brumana, Lebanon, October 7, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56 of the 5th September, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Naoum Pasha returned to Beit Eddin on the 5th instant from his tour in the Lebanon. After quitting the district of Kesrawan and re-entering that of El Meten, his Excellency took a roundabout route by Bekfaya and Brumana, visiting thus the chief centres of the Kaimakamlik, which had been overlooked on his outward journey, and where the French Consul-General and I have resided for the summer season.

During his Excellency's stay in Brumana he conversed with me on the state of the Administration, and appeared to be satisfied with the results of his tour. He also mentioned that reports had reached him of my recent journeys in the mixed districts of the Shouf and Meten, and that he was gratified on learning the language I had held at public receptions accorded to me by the inhabitants. I informed his Excellency that I had visited the most important villages of both districts, and had been agreeably impressed by the harmony generally prevailing between Christians and Druses.

I was able at the same time to contradict a report that Druses of the Lebanon and the Hauran had met in the Shouf to discuss the state of affairs in the Hauran, and that a Resolution had been carried to prosecute the war to its bitter end. Considering the cruel hardships and sufferings that the Hauran Druses had undergone during the late campaign, and the oppression under which they still laboured, I thought that considerable credit was due to the Lebanese for their loyal and peaceful behaviour under such trying circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 98.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 434.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 27, 1896, 11·25 A.M.*

IN continuation of my telegram No. 430, I have the honour to state that the answer given to the Dragomans who were sent to inquire, collectively, about the forced loan, and to represent the danger of such a measure, was unsatisfactory. The Porte admit that money is to be raised, but state that this is to be done by voluntary subscription. Appeals will be made for this purpose in the Mosques. The money raised will not be used for arming the civilian population, but only for military purposes.

We have been promised further details, which we shall not fail to press for.

No. 99.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 439.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1896, 1·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received a telegram from the Vice-Consul at Van respecting the application of reforms. He says nothing can be done without money, and insists that the arrest of three individuals called Hoscin and Hadji Temer Pasha and Emin, of whom the first two are Hamidieh officers, is necessary, even if they receive no severe punishment.

The Vali also desires their arrest, and Major Williams requests the Embassy to move in the matter.

Two new Mouavins have been appointed in the vilayet.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 327.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 330 of the 12th instant, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, giving an account of the deplorable state of the Fékè district of Kozan, and stating that a disaster is to be feared at any moment if the present Kaïmakam of Fékè be not removed.

If your Excellency has not already done so, it might be advisable to draw the attention of the Porte to the state of the district in question, and the risk of disorder if the present Kaïmakam is maintained at his post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 320 of the 10th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details respecting the outbreak in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 43.)
Sir, *Damascus, October 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the situation in the Hauran has not undergone much modification during the last fortnight. The Druses of Salkhad refused to permit the census officials to enter their territory, and in consequence the officials returned to Suedah. These Druses have gathered in their harvest, or what remained of it, and are now stated to be only waiting for rain to take to the Ledja again, as at present there is no water in that district.

The Druses of Hasbeya and Rasheya have lately been summoned to submit to the conscription, and in consequence all those persons who are liable to be taken for military service have fled to Mount Hermon, after making a protest against what they called an innovation. Two battalions of troops have been sent to the district, one of which is the Zebedani Redif battalion, which had been sent back from the Hauran, and had been stationed latterly at Beyrout.

Abdullah Pasha's arrival has so far made no difference in the aspect of affairs. Tahir Pasha, the ex-Mushir, left Damascus two days ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 102.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting on events at Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Consul-General Mockler to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Bagdad, September 29, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to very respectfully submit, for your Excellency's information, copy of a news-letter No. 40, dated the 22nd September last, from Mr. N. Rassam, British Consular Agent at Mosul, some items of which will doubtless prove interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

(No. 40.)
Mosul, September 22, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that his Excellency Abdullah Pasha the Wali issued orders for raising funds through a general contribution to be collected in this vilayet for the purchase of 400 mules for mule-riding troops required for the protection of the sheep and cattle from plunder and injuries of the Arab tribes in the open country. So his Excellency imposed the price of 100 mules upon the central town of Mosul, and the rest upon the inhabitants of Kerkook and Suleimanieh. Consequently, a Commission was formed on Wednesday last, which assigned the sum of 500 liras as price of fifty mules, to be paid by the inhabitants of this town, levying about one-half upon the Christians, whereas they do not come to one-fourth of the Muslim inhabitants in number. The price of another 100 mules, which is 1,000 liras, is to be collected from the neighbouring villages and districts. The inhabitants are unwilling to pay the amount, but the authorities are forcing them to do so against their will, and even committed some of them to prison on refusal to pay what was allotted to them.

His Excellency the Wali, when it was proved to him that most of the troubles and confusions which existed in Suleimanieh and its neighbourhood were due to the influence and intrigues of Sheikh Mustofa, the Nakib, brother of Sheikh Said, decided upon his removal thence as a matter pressingly needful, and sent him out from that place under escort, who arrived here on Thursday last in the evening, and took lodgings in the house hired by him.

It appears from the latest news that his Excellency the Wali is now in the country outside of Suleimanieh, and is endeavouring to punish the Al-Bashder tribes located near the Turco-Persian frontier, who number about 5,000 families, and who, besides having paid no taxes to Government, are always committing plunder and outrages, and as often

as the authorities send troops to seize and inflict chastisement upon them they cross the frontier to the Persian side, and when they are put to straits by the Persian Government they return to their mountains.

I heard some days ago that the said tribe has killed a Yuz-bashi and several soldiers of the Turkish troops, and his Excellency, finding the troops at Suleimanieh insufficient to subdue that tribe, sent for a battalion from Mosul.

His Excellency the Wali, when at Shakhawch, placed under arrest Mustofa Bey, the Amir of that place, whose daughter his Excellency wanted to take away on account of the accumulated balance (of revenue), due by him for eleven years (a time previous to death of his uncle Mahmoud Bey), which amounts to about 70,000 piastres. When the Wali was in that village, Mar Jabrael, the Bishop of Kerkook, waited upon his Excellency, and represented the acts of oppression which the aforesaid Mustofa Bey had exercised against the Christians of the said village, among which there was a forcible extortion of about 80 liras; the Wali thereupon immediately recovered the amount from him and deducted from the military tax due by the said Christians, and after doing this sent Mustofa Bey to Koi Sandjak, the central place of the Kaimakam, made him to be imprisoned there, and sent his son to Mosul to serve in the troops for three months, and after that, on payment of 50 liras, to be enrolled in the reserve troops.

No. 103.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 862.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 22, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Dr. Dickson, reporting the refusal of the Grand Vizier to allow a Commission of the Board of Health to visit the prisons in Constantinople, which were believed to be extremely overcrowded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

Dr. Dickson to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 53.)
Sir,

Constantinople, October 20, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copies of the Grand Vizierial reply to a proposal made to the Board of Health by the Russian Delegate that a Commission should be named by it for the purpose of inspecting the Constantinople prisons, and which are believed to be in a horrible state of overcrowding since the Armenian riots have occurred.

The Grand Vizier states that there is no need of this inspection, as the Prefecture declares that the greatest care has been taken to insure the healthiness of the prisons, khans (lodging houses), and private houses in which untowards events (incidents) had occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Rifaat Pasha to the Minister of the Sanitary Department.

Le 23 Septembre, 1896.

RÉPONSE au teskéré de votre Excellence en date du 14 Rébiul-Ahir, 1314, No. 59. Le Ministère de l'Intérieur se référant à la réponse de la Préfecture de Police déclare que comme les plus grands soins sont appliqués à l'assainissement des prisons, des hans, et des maisons privées où des incidents ont eu lieu, il n'est pas nécessaire, comme l'a proposé le Délégué de Russie, qu'une inspection de ces lieux soit effectuée par l'entremise de la Commission spéciale.

Je prie votre Excellence de faire le nécessaire.

(Signé) RIFAAT.

No. 104.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 864.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the transfer of Zia Pasha from Diarbekir to the command of the Erzeroum Division, and his replacement at Diarbekir by Yahya Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 103.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, October 9, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of the 6th August, I have the honour to report that the appointment of Mehmed Ali Pasha to the command of the Erzeroum Division having been cancelled at his own request, Zia Pasha, now in command of the Sairt Division, with head-quarters at Diarbekir, has been appointed in his stead; while Yahya Pasha, the Acting Commander at Erzeroum, is to take Zia Pasha's place at Diarbekir, and will leave to-morrow for his new post.

Mr. Hallward has repeatedly drawn attention to Zia Pasha's praiseworthy efforts for the maintenance of order at Diarbekir, and his appointment here should prove a distinct gain for Erzeroum, as Yahya Pasha, though not ill-disposed towards the Christians and inclined to act harmoniously with the Vali, has shown himself somewhat indolent and lacking in the energy and severity necessary to control ill-disciplined troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 105.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 865.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting Consul-General at Smyrna, reporting that encouragement is given to the Bulgarian emigrants to move eastwards into the Armenian provinces by promises of land and a house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)
Sir,

Smyrna, October 21, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Elioponlos reports from Aivali to the effect that the Turkish authorities at Pergamos are encouraging the Monhajirs, Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria, to go and settle in the Armenian provinces, where they are promised 50 dounums (about 10 acres), a vine-yard, and a house per head of a family. Travelling expenses are also defrayed by the Government, and already several Monhajirs settled at Ayasmat have left that place for the eastern vilayets viâ Mersina.

I have not heard of any special movement eastwards of Mussulman settlers from other localities in this district, but it may be going on from other parts of Asia Minor, which, if so, would show that a systematic Government plan is being carried out to augment the Mussulman population in such places where the Armenian element is still considered too preponderant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 106.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 870.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1896.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the recall of Saadeddin Pasha from Van and Djemal Bey from Erzeroum to Constantinople, with remarks on the beneficial results likely to ensue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 196. Confidential.) *Erzeroum, October 16, 1896.*
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Saadeddin Pasha arrived here yesterday from Van, having been recalled to the capital. He is accompanied by the ex-Mouavin of the Vali of Van, Melik Effendi, whose place, I understand, has been already filled up.

One of the members of Shakir Pasha's suite, Djemal Bey, who had remained at Erzeroum, has also been recalled, and will accompany Saadeddin Pasha to Constantinople. On the departure of Shakir Pasha, Djemal Bey was appointed President of the Turkish Relief Committee at Erzeroum. This Committee disposed of hardly any funds, and one of its avowed objects was "the repair of mosques destroyed in the late disturbances," whereas every one is aware that no mosques were destroyed, except perhaps one or two in the Zeitoun region, where the Armenians were really for a time in arms against the Government. The appointment, therefore, to such nominal functions of an official of Djemal Bey's standing, with a salary of £T. 120 monthly, was not taken seriously, and the general belief is that his real mission was to act as Palace agent and correspondent at Erzeroum.

The simultaneous departure of Saadeddin Pasha and Djemal Bey will relieve the Valis of Van and Erzeroum, for the moment at least, of a very irksome form of control, and will allow them a much freer hand in dealing with the administrative difficulties which confront them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 107.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 871.) *Constantinople, October 25, 1896.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 837 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the restrictive formalities exacted from Armenians who wish to leave the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 107.) *Erzeroum, October 16, 1896.*
Sir,

A CIRCULAR telegram from the Sublime Porte containing instructions with regard to Armenian emigration, and dated the 11th October, was received here on the 12th instant, and communicated to the Armenian Episcopal Vicar for the information of his community.

The terms of this Circular are, briefly, to the effect that Armenians who emigrate will for the future be called upon to find bail, subject to the approval of their ecclesiastical authorities, to place two copies of their photographs in the hands of a Commission appointed to deal with emigration, and to renounce formally their Ottoman nationality, with the understanding that they will not be allowed to return to Turkey. An entry will be made for each case in the registers of the Commission, of the ecclesiastical authorities, and of the competent Government Department.

In the case of those who have left the country clandestinely and without passports, a period of one month and a-half, to be extended where good cause can be shown to two months, is fixed, during which, after application to the Ottoman Embassy in the country of their residence, they will be allowed to return to Turkey. If they fail to appear within two months they will cease to be Ottoman subjects. Those who return with foreign passports will not be recognized as foreign subjects.

Armenians who have quitted Turkey during the past twenty years, and those who have taken part in seditious movements, will in no case be allowed to return to Turkey. If they do, they will be arrested and dealt with according to law. This measure will apply equally to those who hold foreign passports, and even if they petition to be allowed to revert to Ottoman nationality their request will be refused.

The immediate effect at Erzeroum has been to put a stop to emigration for the moment, the impression being general among the people that the terms of the Circular cover an intention on the part of the Government to confiscate the property of all Armenians who have left or may leave the country, and who will now lose their rights as Ottoman subjects. Forty or fifty passports, most of them for entire families, were being *visé* daily at the Russian Consulate-General, but since the 12th instant not more than half-a-dozen single men with no property to lose have presented themselves there.

Whether the wholesale measure of spoliation apprehended by the Armenians be intended or not, it appears to me that these instructions, as far as those who have left the country clandestinely are concerned, will effectively prevent the return of Armenian emigrants. The great majority of them are to be found in the Russian Government of the Caucasus, in a state of greater or less destitution. Some time must elapse before they are acquainted with the conditions on which they may return to Turkey; and then it will be difficult for many of them to apply to the Ottoman Embassy at St. Petersburgh, or even to the nearest Consulate, if that would suffice, within the time specified. They would also be deterred by the fear of punishment for having left Turkey without permission.

It may be remarked, in conclusion, that the prospect of arrest and punishment held out to those who have left the country within the last twenty years, and who have taken part in seditious movements, seems to be in direct contradiction to the letter and spirit of the various amnesties which have from time to time been proclaimed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 108.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 323.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 24, 1896.*

WHEN I saw Count Goluchowski yesterday I said to him that I had expected that my final interview with him would have no other character than a final leave-

taking; but that, having on the previous evening received an important despatch from your Lordship, which I was charged to communicate to him, I must trespass a little longer than I had expected on his time.

I then read to him your Lordship's despatch No. 123, Confidential, of the 20th instant, and gave him a copy of it.

At the conclusion of my reading he said that he entirely agreed in your Lordship's views; that he had more than once propounded them to Prince Lobanow through the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh without success; and that when he began upon the subject with the Prince during the visit of their Russian Majesties to Vienna, he was met by a curt refusal to listen to a word on the subject.

He had now received a telegram from the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, stating that M. Schischkine had informed him that France and Russia were agreed upon the necessity of proposing reforms at Constantinople, and believed that England would be ready to act with them.

His Excellency added that, if this were really the case, there would, of course, be no objection on the part of any member of the Triple Alliance to joining in the proposed action and in giving the necessary instructions to their Representatives at Constantinople.

Count Goluchowski then entered into a long defence of his own policy during the past year, and insisted, with reference to the blockade which he had suggested should be instituted against Crete, that he had been quite misunderstood, and that he had acted solely on behalf of Greece, and with a view to relieve the King from a difficult and dangerous situation.

He wound up by declaring his strong English sympathies, and his never varying desire to act with Her Majesty's Government; and with repeated expressions of regret at the termination of our official relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 109.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 872.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, reporting the representations he made to the Imperial Commissioner, Shakir Pasha, on the occasion of his visit to that town.

I am making representations respecting the treatment of Protestant Armenians at Megre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Kharput, October 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I presented Memorandums upon the following subjects to Shakir Pasha during his stay at Kharput.

Outrages upon Women, committed in Tadem and the Palou Villages.

In conformity with the instructions contained in the telegram of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, dated the 24th May last, I placed a summary of my despatch of the 2nd May in Shakir Pasha's hands, inciting at the same time his attention to the crimes of Hadji Beygo and the Palou Agas.

Hadji Beygo was thereupon imprisoned, but has now again been released. The Marshal promised to make an inquiry, upon his arrival at Palou, into the action of the various local Agas during the disturbances; but as he only stayed there one day—owing, it seems, to the outbreak at Van—his inquiry cannot have been very thorough.

Taxes levied from Armenians of ruined Villages.

I submitted to the Imperial Commissioner a list containing the names of villages—among them being Coyulu and Tadem, alluded to in my despatch No. 8 of the 10th May last—which had been plundered and burnt during the disturbances, and from which taxes for this year together with, in many instances, arrears for past years were then being demanded; and I pointed out to him that the zaptiehs sent to collect the taxes were perpetually ill-treating the destitute Armenians, besides forcing the villagers to supply them with food, accommodation, and fodder for their horses.

Shakir Pasha admitted the hardship to which the Armenians were exposed by this forced collection, and that he had no doubt as to their ill-treatment at the hands of the zaptiehs; but, he added, that it was impossible to totally suspend the collection, as the pay of many officials throughout the vilayet was several months in arrears; he assured me, however, that strict orders had been issued for the Virghin to be exacted only from such persons as were in a position to pay.

The Marshal further stated that he was submitting to the Commission of Control a scheme for the appointment of special agents to act as tax collectors, which would, he trusted, if approved of and carried into force, render any abuses of the kind impossible in the future.

Condition of the Armenians at Husni-Mansour.

Husni-Mansour suffered severely during the troubles in this vilayet, and the Armenians there are consequently very poor. A large portion of them were engaged in petty trade with the surrounding villages; but latterly, owing to the ill-will displayed by the Turkish peasantry, they have been unable to ply their trade in those villages, and so have been deprived of their only means of gaining a livelihood.

Shakir Pasha took the same action on their behalf as was taken by him, at my suggestion, with regard to the Malatia journeying craftsmen, as reported in my despatch No. 40, dated the 17th of last August.

Armenian Crops seized by Moslem Agas.

I handed a copy in Turkish of the inclosed Memorandum to the Marshal, who promised to have the statements therein set forth immediately investigated. A Commission was sent to the Charsanjak district to make the necessary inquiry, but the Armenians, it appears, through fear of their Agas, denied that any portion of their crops had been confiscated. Nevertheless, Osman Bey, after the departure of the Commission, is stated to have hung up a certain Armenian by the heels, and to have beaten him cruelly, accusing him at the same time with having given information to the authorities.

Treatment of Protestant Armenians at Mezreh.

The Protestants at Mezreh, wishing to build a house for their pastor, Kiriagos Kachadurian, succeeded in obtaining last year a permit to that end, which was confirmed by the Municipality this year. The material for the construction was purchased, and the foundations were laid some four months ago. Shortly afterwards, however, the work was suspended by order of the Muarif Mudiri, whose action was seconded by the Vali Raouf Bey maintained that there was every reason to premise that the house, when completed, would be used as a church, or, at any rate, as a place for religious meetings.

The Protestants thereupon offered to give security that the building was destined to be, and should be, used exclusively as a private residence for their pastor, who has a numerous family; and they further undertook to diminish, if necessary, the size of the house, as originally planned, by one-half.

Shakir Pasha promised me that he would discuss, and try to arrange the matter with the Vali; but upon Raouf Bey's persistent refusal to allow the building to be completed, owing to his conviction, he said, that it was intended to serve as a place of meeting, Shakir Pasha let the matter drop, and the Vali now informs me that he must receive orders from Constantinople before he can allow the construction to proceed.

Raouf Bey's action in this instance would appear as inexplicable as it is irrational; but I am informed, upon excellent authority, that private instructions have been received by the authorities here to prevent, by every possible means, the propagation of Protestantism.

The Protestant school at Mezreh has been used for the last twenty years, I am told, for the celebration of divine service on Sundays. This also has been forbidden by the Vali, upon the ground of such celebration being illegal.

Armenian Girls abducted by Turks.

I presented to the Imperial Commissioner a Petition addressed to him, and forwarded to me from Sivas, for the recovery of: Dryaghich Gregorian, carried off by Hussein Khoja, of the village of Buyuk Aivali; Surpoohi Zoumian (Zoulounian ?), carried off by Chalhamadji Oglou Osman, of Buyuk Aivali; and of Eyissabet Edjilenian, carried off by Hadji Hassan Oglou Ibish, of the village of Kourtchaular, Agcha Tagh.

As the three villages in question are situated in the Sandjak of Malatia, Shakir Pasha instructed the Mutessarif to investigate the matter carefully, and do all that was necessary. I have not yet heard, however, of the restoration of these women to their friends, and fear that they have openly embraced Islamism. It is, moreover, impossible, I think, to hope that any serious or equitable investigation can have been made by the official in question into a claim, however just, brought by Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

NAMES of Peasants whose Harvests were confiscated by certain Beys of the Charsanjak Caza.

Names.	Villages.
Robbed by Arslan Bey—	
Bedros Hampeyan	Pashagag.
Nigos Kehia	Til.
Mitig Oglou	
Toros Kehia's grandsons	
Arabon Oglou	
Babo Kehia	Gadosan.*
Mukhsion Apo Markar	
Avadisian Garabet	
Bedros Oglou	
Minas Oglou	
[illegible]	Lower Harsig.
Kehian Alexan	
Mavsib Oglou	
Muchsion Garabet	
Chian Oglou	Darag.*
[illegible] Agob	
Robbed by Osman Bey—	
Zoravar Bedros	Upper Khajur.*
Gesik-Tepeli Aroot	
Dersam Dersim	
Kalusd Khachig	

* Denotes that some slight and inadequate pecuniary compensation was given to the peasants.

Names.	Villages.
Robbed by Osman Bey—	
Mesjomargh Horsig	Til.
Valoshi Minas	
Thomsian Dédé	
Shemseli Torig	
Merakia Bedig	
Takesian Krikor	Kharesig.
Kadejian Arko	
Zoravjian Ghagas	
Gesk-Tepeli Simon	Lusadarig.
Mezreki Khacho	
Torju Papur	
Airas Kehia	
Robbed by Mahmoud Aga—	
Kanarian Garabet*	Mezreh.
Tumoian Dédé	
Robbed by Ismaili Slo Bey—	
Bedoian Garabet	Khurmez.
Robbed by Husni Aga—	
Tatoian Beghos	
Robbed by Ismail Pasha Aga—	
Paparig Oglou	Lower Horsig.
Robbed by Ismail Mahmoud—	
Zotoian Apoo	
Robbed by Mesaich Aga—	
Ohnigian Beghos	

No. 110.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 873. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract, communicated to me by the Italian Ambassador, of a report from the Italian Consul-General at Geneva to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Rome, respecting the projects of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Report from the Italian Consul-General at Geneva to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Rome.

(Extract.) *September 29, 1896.*

YESTERDAY afternoon a meeting, very secret, of Armenian revolutionaries took place in the house of Gasparianz, 6, Chemin de la Roserie. Gars and Haratch, chief movers in the attack on the Ottoman Bank, were present, as also Dawtianz and Wolianski.

Twenty or more letters were sent to Bulgaria for the Secret Committees "of terror" at Constantinople, which "should act in a very short time in throwing bombs everywhere." I have learned that at Constantinople there are hundreds of loaded bombs concealed. An Embassy is to be attacked, the measures will be the same as those taken at the Bank. I cannot learn which Embassy is threatened. The Ambassador will be made prisoner, conditions will be imposed, and if not accepted, all will be blown up together. The Armenians say that the independence of the Armenian "patrie" is their excuse to the Powers for the action. This was said by Gasparianz.

* Denotes that some slight and inadequate pecuniary compensation was given to the peasants.

As soon as the independence of Armenia is proclaimed, the Anarchist Societies against "les bourgeois de l'Arménie" would be immediately formed in thousands. The ground is well prepared. The excuse of forming an Armenian gendarmerie is a blind; it is really meant to enrol Nihilist agents into the country. The Armenian Central Committee of social revolution has its centre at Geneva, where another Nihilist Committee will be formed to foment another vast insurrection already preparing for five years in the Russian Caucasus.

The Armenian insurrection is so much of an Anarchist character that at the Anarchist Congress of July in London an address was read from the Armenian Secret Committee which finished as follows: "From Armenia will be fired the spark which will bring on the social revolution in Europe."

This evening a further meeting in favour of Armenians. The organizing Committee is formed of all parties.

No. 111.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 874.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1896.*

THE Sultan sent me a message the day before yesterday to the effect that the Armenian reforms were at last completed. In the last week many telegrams had been dispatched from the Palace to the authorities in the six vilayets, giving categorical orders for the immediate execution of reforms, with specific directions as to each point. For instance, with regard to the collection of taxes, a telegram had been dispatched in the following terms:—

"If you have not already done so, prevent the gendarmes from collecting taxes, and appoint the proper tax-collectors, and inform me in forty-eight hours."

Another telegram stated that His Majesty had learnt that there were persons in prison in the provinces who had never been tried. The authorities were ordered to conclude the cases in fifteen days, and to either condemn or acquit the prisoners.

A third telegram stated that this was not the moment to raise difficulties or enter into correspondence, but that the matter must be finished in twenty-four hours.

These telegrams were read to the First Dragomans of the British and Russian Embassies by Izzet Bey, and are perhaps to be attributed to the language used by M. de Nélidow in an audience which he had with the Sultan on the 17th instant. There is no doubt that the Palace is anxious at the present moment to make a show of energy in the introduction of reforms, but my Russian colleague agrees with me that the practical result is not likely to be great.

I have, however, informed the various Consuls of the orders sent, and have instructed them to report on the steps which may be taken in consequence.

To-day's paper announces that Assistants ("Mouavins"), whose names indicate that they are Christians, have been appointed to the Mutessarifs of Mousli, Kara-Hissar Sharki, Genj, Tokad, and Erzinjian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 112.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 875.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a *note verbale* which I have addressed to the Sublime Port on the state of the Hedjaz, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 282 of the 5th instant.

I feel it, however, my duty to point out to your Lordship that all remonstrances, however earnest, addressed to the Ottoman Government on this subject, have hitherto proved entirely futile. The Sublime Porte make themselves the accomplices of the Vali of the Hedjaz and the Grand Shereef, and merely deny the truth of the complaints made to this Embassy.

In your despatch No. 37, Commercial, your Lordship stated that the Indian Government were considering the whole question of the pilgrimage and the condition of the Hedjaz. I have not yet been informed of the result of their deliberations; but I trust it may be found possible to afford some more effective protection to Indian pilgrims during the Hajj, as it is no exaggeration to say that at present the authorities of the holy cities have combined in a conspiracy to rob and plunder them, and that their property, and even their lives, are not safe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose a further report, received from Jeddah, since writing this despatch, which appears to me to confirm the above remarks.

P. C.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Note Verbale.

(No. 116.)

HER Majesty's Embassay have during the last year been obliged repeatedly to remonstrate with the Sublime Porte on the unsatisfactory condition of the Hedjaz, and they have now the honour to call their serious attention to the absolute insecurity prevailing on the Mecca and Medina roads, and to the unwillingness or inability of the Vali to ameliorate their condition.

Robberies of an atrocious nature, and on a scale unparalleled in the past, are continually being perpetrated by bands of Bedouin Arabs.

On the 2nd September a caravan of fourteen camels, carrying almost exclusively Indian pilgrims, was attacked, the passengers, male and female, were stripped of all they possessed, and of every shred of clothing; many of them were severely beaten and mutilated, and the few bundles of clothes, &c., which in the confusion had escaped the notice of the robbers, were eventually carried off by the soldiers of a neighbouring fort, who had come up on the pretence of assisting to catch the runaway camels.

A similar outrage was committed on the 11th September on a caravan of Javanese pilgrims, and Her Majesty's Acting Consuls now report a further big robbery which has taken place 4 miles from Jeddah, when one British-Indian pilgrim was severely wounded and another robbed of 7,000 rupees.

Repeated representations have been made by the Consular Body to the Vali of the Hedjaz, but have remained unanswered, and no measures have been taken to improve the condition of the roads. The state of insecurity, in fact, is such at the present moment that no caravans venture to travel at night, and, owing to the heat of the day, communication between Mecca and Jeddah is ceasing altogether.

Provisions and all the necessaries of life at Mecca and Medina are in consequence selling at extremely high rates, and if the present state of affairs continues, a famine seems inevitable.

While calling attention to the state of affairs which, serious as it is, is growing rapidly worse, Her Majesty's Embassy are instructed by Her Majesty's Government to call upon the Sublime Porte to take prompt and energetic measures to put a stop to the insecurity and anarchy for which the Vali is so largely responsible.

Therapia, October 20, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Acting Consul Husain to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 106.)

Sir, *Jeddah, October 14, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of the 15th September and to-day's telegram, I have the honour to state that, notwithstanding the Porte's instructions to the Vali, not the slightest improvement has yet been made in the condition of the Mecca road.

Insecurity of the road has daily been increasing, and now at last it has been ordered by the local authorities that caravans, instead of travelling at night, as they usually do in this country, should journey by day; but on account of excessive heat, which still continues here, the camelmen do not agree to undertake the journey at daytime, and

thus the communication between Jeddah and Mecca has become very difficult, and the mercantile business is suffering severe losses.

The latter part of September, having moonlight nights, fortunately passed without any serious robbery on the Mecca road; but as it was anticipated by everybody here that the dark nights following them cannot pass without trouble, so it has turned into a fact. From the 1st October up to the 12th four robberies have been committed on the road.

Twice the travellers on mules were attacked and robbed of everything, the post carriers and other passengers were wounded, and the post bags were carried away. On the morning of the 12th instant both the caravans, *i.e.*, the one coming from Mecca and the other going to that town, were attacked at two different places on the road, and a very heavy loss to the property was caused, and several men were severely wounded and one was killed.

Regarding the loss of the caravan proceeding to Mecca I have not yet received full information, but the other caravan which was coming to Jeddah was robbed in front of the Jeddah town, not more than 4 miles from the walls of the town. Nine camels out of twenty-four were carried away by the robbers, and everything that was valuable was plundered.

One of the British Indians who was coming from Mecca received very severe sword cuts, and his life is in danger. Another British Indian, who was residing at Mecca since a long time, after closing his business there was coming down to Jeddah with an intention to proceed to Medina and settle there; and so he was bringing all his money and property, amounting to the value of 7,000 rupees, and the poor man was robbed of everything, even the wearing clothes; thus he and his family have been made destitutes.

I have repeatedly been writing to the Vali about the robberies and unsafe state of the Mecca road, and on the last occasion, *i.e.*, on the 12th instant, I sent him a telegram protesting against the losses of the British Indians, and strongly demanded a speedy action to prevent the robberies in future; but I am sorry to bring to the notice of your Excellency that the replies that I have been receiving from his Excellency the Governor-General of the Hedjaz have all been to the effect that his Excellency has communicated the news to the Grand Shereef, and the result will be communicated in time to the Consulate.

It appears from this that his Excellency Ahmed Ratib Pasha, the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, either does not care to take any trouble to do what is necessary to secure the safety of the roads, or has no courage to compel His Highness the Grand Shereef, who is responsible for the safety of the roads, to take proper steps to recover the lost property, arrest the robbers, and punish them adequately for their misdeeds. Besides Hamid-bin-Naffaa and Abdullah-bin-Masood, about whom I reported in my despatch No. 104 of the 30th September, and who are still at large, two other sources of trouble have been added.

Abu Nahab, a leader of the Herb tribe, and a professional robber, has come down on the Mecca road, and has added more danger to the already very unsafe condition of this road. The cause of Abu Nahab's assuming the present troublesome attitude is ascribed to the following account.

About fourteen years ago he carried away a domestic slave belonging to one of the residents of this place, and kept him in his service. Now about a month ago this slave managed somehow to escape from this Bedouin's place, and came to Jeddah and took refuge with his former master.

Abu Nahab sent men in search of the runaway slave, and, finding him at Jeddah, demanded the slave to be returned to him. But the man with whom the slave took refuge refused to give him up, and Abu Nahab, finding himself powerless to do anything in the town, began to rob the caravans going to Mecca, and thus avenge against the whole town.

The third and the last source of trouble on this road is Shereef Aun-bin-Nasir and his brother, Fawwad-bin-Nasir, who have a good deal of influence over the tribes near Taif. I have been lately informed that for some trifling cause His Highness the Grand Shereef ill-treated both the above-named brothers (who by family connections are related to Grand Shereef himself), and sent them to the prison. These two men have managed to escape from the prison, and have now taken their abode in some stronghold near Taif, and they have declared it as their intention to do as much mischief as they can in order to thwart the objects of the Grand Shereef. But as they can do very little to do any personal harm to His Highness the Grand Shereef, they have prompted their followers to stop the roads, and thus create great difficulties in the country.

Under these circumstances, most respectfully I have the honour to point out that any satisfactory arrangement under the present régime seems quite impossible, and all the efforts of the Consulates and others will prove more than useless as long as the present Vali of the Hedjaz is in power.

In conclusion, I have the honour to inclose the copies of telegram which I sent to the Vali on the 12th instant, and its reply, and the statement of Haji Mohammed Shah, who has received very severe wounds in the last robbery on the 12th instant.

This statement shows that, though the Mecca road has been in its present unsafe state for a long time, still no attempt has been made to provide military guard or any other mode of protection for the travellers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. MOHAMMAD HUSAIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Deposition of Haji Mohammed Shah, of Saloon, District Rai Boreli, India.

I LEFT Mecca on Saturday evening with a caravan of about twenty-four camels; arrived Hadda safely the next morning. Left Hadda on Sunday evening, and at night-time, at about 4 A.M., three Bedouins came to my camel, and having undone the rope of my camel, which was fastened with others, conveyed it to one side with me. I thought first that they were the camelmen of our caravan, but afterwards, when I heard shouting from all around, I jumped down from the camel, and, leaving all the baggage on it, ran towards the caravan.

While running, I was struck with a staff on my head, which made me somewhat giddy, and another blow of sword on the shoulder, which I did not feel painful at the time. I continued running, and at a distance met with a row of four camels, which I accompanied.

I then found that blood was running from my shoulder, and the bone was cut. I walked with these camels to the café about half-a-mile from the place where robbery took place; there the caravan stopped, so I did.

In the meantime the morning broke, and the caravan marched. I also left the café, and walked for a short distance, when I saw some persons on donkeys coming from Jeddah, one of whom kindly assisted me by offering his donkey, on which I mounted, and arrived Jeddah at about 7 o'clock, and at once went to the dispensary (attached to the British Vice-Consulate) for treatment.

The camel on which I was riding was laden with a box and a tent belonging to another gentleman, as well as a bag and bed of mine, which was all left with the robbers. My bag contained wearing apparel and a few books, worth about 20 rupees, and 30 rupees in cash.

I saw no guards at all with the caravan at the time when the robbery was committed.

(Signed) MOHAMMED SHAH.

The above-named Haji Mohammed Shah appeared before me, and declared on oath that the above statement is true.

(Signed) S. MOHAMMAD HUSAIN,
Acting Consul.

October 13, 1896.

No. 113.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 876.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 27, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of an interesting letter I have received from Mr. Fontana, Vice-Consul at Kharput, reporting on the state of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Kharput, October 14, 1896.

Dear Sir Philip Currie,

I BEG to forward to your Excellency herewith a Memorandum written by Dr. Barnum upon the subject of the cruel extortion practised upon the peasantry of this vilayet by the tax collectors. Numbers of the poor people, ragged and miserable, have applied to me for help, but whenever I have remonstrated with the Vali his invariable answer has been, "Let them give me a Petition," and of course nothing comes of that.

The most significant and grotesque feature in the case is that the extortion began just before Shakir Pasha left here for Van. I could not persuade him to take any radical measures to stop the abuse. He of course knew that his own salary for the time, together with that of his numerous hangers on, had to be wrung from this unfortunate vilayet, although it was like wringing blood from a stone. His visit, I firmly believe, was on the whole rather prejudicial than otherwise to the Armenians in general. The Turkish malefactors, who trembled before his arrival and afterwards received no punishment at his hands, became doubly insolent after he had left. He released the Armenian prisoners at Malatia who were all well known to be innocent; but he did not interfere with a single one of the notorious wholesale murderers—of position or otherwise—who are still at large there. At Kharput his principal occupation seems to have consisted in poker, in augmenting (on paper) the salary of numerous officials, and of "reforming" the police and gendarmerie by the addition of a few Armenians.

I reminded Shakir Pasha that before any reforms sown by him in the unpropitious soil of this vilayet could bear fruit, the large at least of the numerous stones which encumbered the earth must be removed. He agreed with me in theory, but said that in practice their removal might cause a cataclysm.

I am informed by a certain engineer that gangs of Armenians were forced to work at repairing the road from Sivas to Malatia, without pay and without rations, in order to pave the way for the arrival of the Imperial Commissioner for the execution of the reforms. His horde of camp-followers swooped down on the vilayet like a swarm of locusts, leaving the unhappy Armenians to pay for the locusts' passage with their harvests.

Shakir Pasha seems a good-natured and well-meaning man, but impresses one with the idea that he looks upon his mission—though not his salary—as a farce, and himself as a *farceur*. Danish Bey, who seems a straight and intelligent man, also appears to hold that opinion. Hussib Bey, who is intrusted with judicial matters, openly and rather rudely expressed to me his dislike and sovereign contempt for the Armenians. Upon my occasion to the Ourfa disorder, however, he changed his tone.

It is difficult to believe that any real reform can be introduced or prosper in this atmosphere of anarchy and bankruptcy. The foulest criminals and murderers are at large throughout the vilayet, and respected for their wealth, the spoil of their victims. The pay of very many officials is many months in arrear; clamorous demands for their salary have been made by certain of them to the Vali and Defter-dar, even in my presence. The Mousain, who has been here now over five months, had, up to the other day, when he received something I believe, during all that time been paid only one month's salary.

The idea of offering reforms to the Armenians, in the present state of the country, is like giving pearls to the Arab starving in the desert. It is greatly to be feared that there will be a famine in certain parts of the province this winter, as a great portion of the Armenian peasantry have been absolutely stripped of their meagre harvests by the tax collectors, and have no other means of subsistence. All the important towns have been desolated by the disturbances.

The number of widows and orphans throughout the vilayet is very large. In a letter just received from Arabkir, Dr. Gates tells me that there are in that town 1,158 Armenian widows and 1,943 orphans. In the village of Tchmeh there are no less than 80 widows and orphans to a far greater number.

The massacre at Egbin seems to have been entirely a got-up affair by the authorities. The troops did most of the work of extermination. Neither women nor children were spared.

Dr. Barnum tells me that he hears from many sources that a large force of Kurds advanced as far as Han-Kein, a village some three hours from here, on their way to attack Mezreh at the time of the panic, some three weeks ago. They said they had received orders for the attack, but when ordered by an officer to disperse they retired quietly. The Kurds of this district are, from all that I can hear, the most tractable element in the Moslem population.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. F. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

Memorandum.

DURING the more than thirty-eight years of my residence in this country I have never known so great pressure to be used in the collection of taxes as this year. The zaptiehs, who were sent out, some of them declared that they had authority to do as they pleased if they only secured money. Some said that there was to be another massacre, and the Government was determined to secure its claim beforehand. The pressure is much released now, but a few weeks ago the poor people from the villages came to me daily for sympathy and advice. They said that not only the whole tax for the present year was demanded, but the unpaid taxes of past years as well.

Women, whose husbands and sons had died, were insulted in the most outrageous manner; men were beaten and cursed in the vilest language; the little that the poor had scraped together as preparation for the coming winter was taken from them and sold at low prices; grain ready for the market was not allowed to be taken there, but sold to village Turks at much less than the market price.

In the village of Hoodi I was told that women and children were made to stand in the burning sun without any water to drink until money should be forthcoming.*

In the village of Pertek, where the people last fall were not able to secure their cotton and vegetables, which were taken as a part of the general plunder, the value of the tithe of the same was taken from their threshing floors. Some of the people of this village, to escape the rapacity of the collectors, gathered up a little and fled among friendly Kurds.

These are simple illustrations of what occurred in nearly every Christian village in this region.

The people declared repeatedly that this experience was almost worse than that of last year. That was sudden and soon over, while this was protracted and more insulting.

Along with this collection of taxes the people, as is always the case, were obliged to feed the men on the best food of the place, and to give extra large rations to their horses without any pay, only this year the number for the time was greater. Akif Effendi, a lieutenant in the gendarmerie, is always conspicuous for his mercilessness in such business.

Kharput, October 13, 1896. (Signed) HERMAN N. BARNUM

No. 114.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 877.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 27, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 823 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the cases of the Armenian political prisoners from Erzingian and Baiburt, who have been transferred to the prison at Erzeroum. In his second despatch Mr. Graves incloses a translation of a Petition addressed to him by the Baiburt prisoners, begging his intervention on their behalf. I have had a précis of the contents of this despatch drawn up for communication to my colleagues, and I have hopes that they will consent to make a joint representation respecting the gross injustice which has been committed in opposition to the wishes of the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

* This is confirmed by a member of the Catholic Mission, who adds, that in the evening the zaptiehs invited women to pay a part of the tax by prostituting themselves.—R. F. F.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 102.)

Erzeroum, October 9, 1896.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Erzingian political prisoners to the number of sixty-three have arrived at Erzeroum. I also learn that twenty-seven political prisoners from Baiburt have just been brought in here. The judicial Inspectors of the Vilayets of Diarbekir and Erzeroum are expected here in a few days, and I trust that their visit may result in the release of a large number of the Armenians now in custody on political charges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 105. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, October 14, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report as follows with respect to the case of the twenty-seven Armenian prisoners lately brought to Erzeroum from Baiburt, as reported in my despatch No. 102 of the 9th instant.

These prisoners comprise most of the Armenian Notables of Baiburt, who survived the massacre of the 26th October, 1895, and among them are two or three who, with the consent and assistance of the local authorities, acted as agents for the distribution of relief in the Baiburt Caza until quite recently. When the massacre took place the state of siege was proclaimed at Baiburt, and the military authorities threw these people and many other Armenians into prison, although no Mussulmans were then arrested or punished for the shocking massacre of many hundreds of unresisting Christians whom they had murdered under the very eyes of the authorities. The prisoners were abused and tortured until some of them consented to sign so-called confessions of guilt, implicating all their Notables; on the strength of which twenty-seven persons were summarily tried by court-martial and sentenced to penal servitude, some for life, and some for fifteen years.

A few days after the massacre Ibrahim Bey, now Mutessarif of Bayazid, who had just been appointed Kaïmakam, arrived at Baiburt, where his first act was to discharge from prison all the Armenians who had not been tried, and to report the state of affairs to Shakir Pasha, the High Commissioner for Reforms. Shakir Pasha sent one of his secretaries, Tewfik Bey, to Baiburt, with instructions to hold an inquiry, which he did in conjunction with the military authorities, and drew up a report to the effect that the confessions had been extorted by violence, and that the prisoners had better be discharged. This was done on the 8th December, in virtue of the powers vested in Shakir Pasha, and they remained at liberty, in the belief that they had nothing more to fear.

Meanwhile, the Baiburt military authorities had communicated the sentence of the court-martial to the Mushir, Zekki Pasha, at Erzingian, and the latter, after applying without result for further documents from Baiburt, forwarded the sentence and "dossier," accompanied by a report of his own, to the Seraskierate, to be submitted to the Superior Military Court. This Court, in defiance of Shakir Pasha's decision and of the known opinions of the Erzeroum authorities, confirmed the outrageous sentence of the Baiburt court-martial, and the Sultan signed an Iradé for its execution; the twenty-seven Armenians were consequently rearrested on the 30th August, and again lodged in prison. It is to be noted that the issue of the Iradé coincides in date with the massacres at Constantinople.

The Vali of Erzeroum has been doing his utmost to convince the Central Government of the irregularity and injustice of this sentence, and to obtain the issue of a fresh Iradé annulling the former one, and pardoning the prisoners, and I thought it better to await the result of his action before reporting to your Excellency. Unfortunately he has not succeeded, and I have accordingly communicated the facts, together with copies

of the inclosed Petition addressed to me on behalf of the prisoners, and dated Baiburt, the 4th (16th) September, 1896, to my French and Russian colleagues, who have promised to report the case to their respective Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I venture to point out that this is far from being the only instance in which the Mushir, Zekki Pasha, has interfered with the attempts of Shakir Pasha and Raouf Pasha to deal justly and humanely by the Armenians. If his evil influence is again allowed to triumph, it will go far to destroy such confidence as the Christians are beginning to feel in the present administration of this province, and to drive them in their despair to lend a favouring ear to the revolutionary agents, against whom Raouf Pasha is carrying on so successful a campaign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Petition of Baiburt Armenian Prisoners.

(Translation.)

To the British Consul at Erzeroum:

AFTER the awful massacre which occurred in Baiburt last year on the 14th (26th) October, the authorities imprisoned more than 200 of us. By subjecting us to terrible and unendurable suffering and torture at the hands both of the officials and of the Turkish prisoners at night, in the depth of the prison, they caused us to sign a paper previously prepared, containing many calumnies concerning the Notables of this district, to the effect that they had formed a Committee, and had imported arms from Russia to prepare the people of Baiburt for rebellion. The leader in this process of torture was a Mulazim of gendarmes, named Ali, who is now attached to the guard of the Erzeroum prison. Ali executed the tortures, namely, squeezing our private parts, pinching our flesh with pincers, sticking long needles into us, &c., by order of the President of the Court-martial, Salih Zekki Pasha.

When the former Kaïmakam was removed, and the present honourable Kaïmakam came, he reported the case justly to Erzeroum. On that report the Military Court was changed, and a member of Shakir Pasha's suite, Tewfik Bey, with a few soldiers, came and examined us again, and, understanding that we had been beaten and tortured, dismissed us from prison as innocent. We left the prison on the 27th November (8th December), and for nine months we have been mourning our miserable condition, and eating the bread provided by the charity of Europe and America.

On the 18th (30th) August, 1896, twenty-eight persons of us were again imprisoned on the ground of the trial of last year, confirmed by Imperial Iradé, some of us being sentenced to 15 years and some to 100 years.

Naturally, this unexpected circumstance has increased the misery of our families, who were already in a most lamentable position. Most of us belong to families who have no one but ourselves at liberty to earn a living for them. Even our Turkish neighbours admit our innocence. In describing our miserable condition to you, we entreat, in the name of justice, that you will intercede with the Government of our merciful Sultan, and obtain the remission of our present punishment.

On behalf of the Armenian prisoners of Baiburt who were tortured, and who, contrary to their consciences, signed evil and slanderous documents,

Your humble servants,

(Signed) PARTOKH BARSEGHIAN.
HARATIOUN CHAKALIAN.
YAKOOR SAHAGIAN.
HAIGATS KRIKORIAN.
MIHAEL SANOSSIAN.
STEPAN BALAKHORTSEE.

Baiburt, September 4 (16), 1896.

No. 115.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 2.*)

(No. 880.) *Therapia, October 28, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Trebizond respecting the case of seven Armenian prisoners detained on political charges in that town.

I had already, on receipt of Mr. Longworth's despatch No. 152 of the 4th December, 1895, to which Mr. Shipley refers, presented to the Sublime Porte a Memorandum protesting against the treatment of the Armenians arrested in connection with the massacres at Trebizond, and I have now instructed Mr. Block to again speak to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 50. Confidential.) *Trebizond, October 14, 1896.*

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Longworth's despatch No. 152 of the 4th December last year, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a translation of a communication forwarded to this Consulate by seven of the thirty-five Armenian prisoners alluded to in the above despatch, protesting against the sentences which, it appears, have been announced to them as having been definitely confirmed by the Supreme Military Tribunal at Constantinople.

Their names are:—

1. Manoug Tatossian, condemned to 101 years' imprisonment.
2 and 3. Stepan and Krikor Tatossian, brothers of the above, to ten years' imprisonment.
4. Hetoum Diradourian.
5. Hadjee Vartan Asdourian.
6. Hadji Minas Tutundjian.
7. Arshag Filician, to five years' detention in a fortified town respectively.

Of the remaining twenty-eight prisoners, one, Hagop Shavarsh, has been sent to Erzingian; two, viz., Agop Dermegherditchian and Dr. Elia Enshorian, have just been released, and twenty-five are still awaiting their sentences.

After a perusal of Mr. Longworth's despatch above referred to, and of the inclosed Memorandum drawn up at my request by Mr. Vivian, Secretary to Mr. Longworth, it is impossible, even in the light of recent events, to withhold one's sympathy from these unfortunate Armenians, who, with the possible exception of one or two, can only be looked upon as victims of circumstances over which they had no control. It is felt that whatever grounds the Turkish Government have had, or may still have, for believing that agitators existed at Trebizond, it ought to have been contented with the terrible punishment inflicted on the 8th October of last year on the Armenian community by the fury of the Turkish mob. The ill-fortune of the prisoners in question is further the more marked, as I have reason to believe, that had the recent outbreak at Constantinople not occurred, the great majority of them would before now have been released.

With regard to one of the above seven prisoners, viz., Arshag Filician, my intervention has been requested by Mr. Crawford, of the American Mission in this town, who informed me that Filician had friends who were willing to undertake to send him to America if it could be managed. I replied to Mr. Crawford that the times were not favourable, that certainly nothing could be done at Trebizond, and, further, that I felt very doubtful whether any steps on my part might not be productive of more harm than good. Nevertheless, in a private and confidential conversation with the Governor-General, Cadri Bey, I took an opportunity of sounding the latter on the subject, including in my observations Hetoum Diradourian, the naturalized American citizen, whose case is even more deserving of sympathy than that of Filician, and gathered that

his Excellency, personally, would be only too glad to adopt the course suggested if he were authorized to do so from Constantinople. More than this I could not expect, as his Excellency, there is reason to believe, is already under suspicion of being too favourably disposed to Armenians, and the only effect of any initiative on his part would in all probability be to seriously compromise his own position. I have since been informed by his Excellency that he has communicated with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the subject of Diradourian's nationality, and that, with regard to the execution of the sentences passed upon the prisoners, he did not expect instructions for some time to come. The facts of the case as regards Diradourian have, I believe, been brought to the notice of the United States' Minister by Mr. Crawford, and a suggestion that he, Diradourian, should be expelled the country might possible not be unsuccessful.

I may add, with reference to the above Petition of the prisoners, that I was requested to hand it to my colleagues. I considered it, however, more advisable that, in the interest of the prisoners themselves, it should be sent directly, and I have now been informed by my Russian, Austrian, and French colleagues that, when received, it will be forwarded by them to their respective Embassies at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Seven Armenian Prisoners to Acting Consul Shipley.

Sir, *Trebizond Prisons, September 17 (29), 1896.*

THE terrible massacre of the 26th September (8th October), 1895, and its consequences, are not unknown to your Excellency; therefore, excuse us if we give you some information about ourselves and our condemnation.

Firstly, we must state this, that the court-martial is composed of such persons who caused our fathers and brothers to be killed and our shops and houses to be looted. Therefore, such a Court would commit injustice and falsify judgment in order to cover its own misdeeds.

Nearly five or six months ago we protested to the Porte at Constantinople against this court-martial, enumerating all the irregularities in its proceedings, and we requested an order to transfer our case to Constantinople, but it was in vain; the Porte did not give any answer. On the contrary, on the 11th September last the Superintendent came to us with a paper in his hand, and read the condemnation of seven of our number pronounced here by the above-mentioned court-martial, then sent to Constantinople, where it was approved, and returned back here for execution:—

1. Manoug A. Tatossian, 101 years.
2. Stepan A. Tatossian, 10 years in a castle.
3. Krikor A. Tatossian, 10 ditto.
4. Hetoum Diradourian, 5 ditto.
5. Hadjee Asdourian, 5 ditto.
6. Hadji Minas Tutundjian, 5 ditto.
7. Arshag Filician, exiled to Acre, without limit of time.

We are surprised at this: to kill us, to loot us, to keep us in prison just a year, and now to condemn us on false witnesses and concocted evidence.

Sir, a clear eye and impartial one can see at the first sight the untruth and the injustice of the condemnation; therefore, believing in you, we ask you to do what is possible to save us from the execution of it, being absolutely sure of your sympathy.

(Signed) The seven persons condemned above.

Inclosure 3 in No. 115.

Mr. Vivian to Acting Consul Shipley.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* , 1896.

IN accordance with your request, I have the honour to submit to you the following details respecting the prisoners whose sentences have recently been confirmed by the Supreme Military Court at Constantinople.

Their names are :—

1. Manoug Tatossian, 101 years' imprisonment.
2. Krikor Tatossian, 10 ditto.
3. Stepan Tatossian, 10 ditto.
4. Arshag Philician, 5 years' fortress detention.
5. Hadjee Vartan Asdourian, 5 ditto.
6. Hetoum Diradourian, 5 ditto.
7. Hadji Minas Tutundjian, 5 ditto.

1. Manoug Tatossian is an Armeno-Gregorian, and a carpenter. Was arrested last October for having in his possession certain pamphlets with the seal of a so-called Revolutionary Society (*vide* Mr. Consul Longworth's despatch No. 132 of the 28th October, 1895). It is a fact that the seal and pamphlet were found in the loft of his shop, but I should point out to you that his own statement is that they were given to him by another Armenian, who was killed in the massacre. I have just heard confidentially that one of the accusations brought against Manoug is that he supplied arms to the assailants of Bahri Pasha.

2 and 3. Krikor Tatossian, a silversmith, and Stepan Tatossian, a joiner, brothers of Manoug. Both these were accused of having aided their brother in his treasonable acts. It is not known what proofs the authorities may have had as regards the complicity of these two, but it is felt in town that the chief cause of their condemnation lies in the fact of their being Manoug Tatossian's brothers.

4. Arshag Philician, an Armeno-Protestant. He was lodged by the police, the day after the massacre, with 300 other Armenians, in a khan, and during the day threw himself out of the window. This act of his was looked upon by the authorities as an attempt to escape, and appears to have been by them construed as an evidence of his guilt. It is well known, however, in the town that he is a person of weak mind, and the accusation against him is received, therefore, with universal incredulity.

5. Hadjee Vartan Asdourian, a Persian subject, was the owner of a restaurant in one of the main streets of the town. He was peaceably engaged in preparing his shop for his customers when the disturbance occurred. Soldiers and townsmen attacked and looted his shop, he himself barely succeeding in escaping into an adjoining house. Some days elapsed before his arrest, when he was called to the "Seraï" and was accused of having fired on the troops, and, in spite of the efforts of the Persian Consul-General, has been sentenced to five years' detention in a fortress.

6. Hetoum Diradourian is a naturalized citizen of the United States. Possesses a naturalization certificate issued by the County Court of King's County, New York, and dated the 21st September, 1885. Has also a passport, No. 3512, of the 10th November, 1885, issued by the State Department. Was four years in America, and came here with the intention of returning after having visited his mother, but was prevented from so doing by his brothers, who engaged him as their clerk. Is the youngest of five sons, three of whom were killed the day of the massacre last October under circumstances reported by Mr. Consul Longworth in his despatch No. 152 of the 4th December, 1895. On the day in question he had gone home for lunch, and, hearing the disturbance, took refuge in the house of a Turkish neighbour, who, the next day, delivered him over to the authorities. Of course, he, as many other educated Armenians, may have had views of his own as to the treatment experienced by his fellow-countrymen at the hands of the Turks, but there is no evidence that I know of connecting him with any treasonable transaction. After remaining nearly twelve months in gaol, he has now been sentenced to five years' fortress detention. I have known Hetoum for the last six years, and I feel it my duty to say that I have never seen or heard anything to lead me to believe that he had anything to do with revolutionary Societies.

7. Hadji Minas Tutundjian, an innkeeper by profession, was arrested about a week after the disturbance on the charge of belonging to the Revolutionary Committee, and of possessing arms.

Two or three fowling-pieces, two revolvers, and a dagger or two were, it is true, found in his house, but it was pointed out by him that the fowling-pieces and daggers had been for years in his family, and, with regard to the revolvers, he stated that he believed that, as everybody else had arms, he naturally enjoyed the same right. It seems probable that Hadji Minas brought himself into trouble through his garrulous nature.

Two, at most three, of those condemned may possibly have given cause for suspicion to the authorities, though even then I beg to point out that for any indiscretion of which they may have been guilty they have already been more than sufficiently punished by the sufferings which they and their families have undergone.

I must, moreover, point out to you that the way the trial was conducted by the court-martial was most arbitrary. The guilt of the above persons was taken for granted, and they were afforded no means of proving their innocence. The sittings were held with closed doors, and no counsel was allowed, and, under these circumstances, it is not too much to say that their condemnation was a foregone conclusion.

(Signed) F. Z. VIVIAN.

No. 116.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 882. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 28, 1896.*

INFORMATION reached Her Majesty's Embassy last week that an Imperial Iradé had been issued confirming a decision of the Council of Ministers, by which a forced loan was to be levied on the Mahommedan population of this Empire for the purpose of arming them against an attack said to be contemplated by the Christians. A Commission under the Presidency of Mahmoud Jellal ed Din Pasha, Minister of Public Works, was intrusted with the task of executing this order.

The Porte at first endeavoured to gloss the matter over, and said the loan was destined "to complete some necessary military preparations," but Said Pasha, President of the Council, admitted to Mr. Block the truth of the account given above. He had done his best, he said, to oppose the scheme, but his objections had been overruled. He had been told that it was evident that the Christians were arming to attack the Moslems, and that the European press was preaching a crusade against Islam; it was therefore necessary to take measures for defence. Finally, he said, he received orders from the Palace to sign the Mazbata, and reluctantly did so.

It is not easy to determine the exact motive of a measure which seems so dangerous and so uncalled-for. It is, perhaps, merely a desperate expedient to obtain a little money, and the ostensible object—defence against an attack by the Christians—may have been selected as the only appeal likely to draw money from Turkish pockets. Perhaps, also, the Sultan and his advisers hoped to gain popularity by the measure, and to defend His Majesty against the accusations disseminated by the "Jeune Turquie" party, by representing him as the champion of Islam in the hour of danger. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that the Turks are genuinely alarmed. They are especially apprehensive that the Armenians may try to fire the city, and I am told that recently a tumult was nearly occasioned in Roumeli Hissar by an Armenian house accidentally catching fire. My Austrian colleague informs me that one of the most considerable gun-smiths of the town, who is an Austrian subject, was asked by the Minister of Police to furnish him with as many arms as he could supply, and also that an attempt has been made to disarm the Croat and Dalmatian Christians, who are generally employed as house-porters, and have a great reputation as fighting men.

In any case, the danger of announcing such a loan is obvious. The provincial massacres were, in most cases, preceded by a rumour to the effect that the Armenians were likely to attack the Moslems, and, if the present measure is really nothing more than an attempt to obtain money, it must inevitably inflame the fanaticism of the populace, and increase the chances of an outbreak.

These considerations decided the Ambassadors to send their Dragomans to the Porte, with the following message to the Foreign Minister :—

"Est-il vrai qu'un emprunt forcé destiné à des armements soit imposé à la population Musulmane et qu'une Commission soit chargée d'en assurer la perception? Cette mesure insolite à un moment où il n'y a aucune menace de guerre est de nature à inquiéter les Chrétiens et les colonies Européennes. S'il s'agit d'armer les troupes régulières ou les réserves, les arsenaux de l'Etat sont à même de suffire à tous les besoins. S'il s'agit d'armer le peuple, la mesure est pleine de péril. En tout cas, s'il est donné suite à ce projet, les Représentants des Puissances seront obligés d'en référer à leurs Gouvernements, afin de les mettre à même d'aviser."

Tewfik Pasha's reply was rather vague and unsatisfactory. He said the money was not to be collected for arming the people, but for buying horses, tents, and clothing, and for unifying the system of armament, that is, for withdrawing the Martinis and other rifles now in the hands of some of the troops, and replacing them by Mausers. As the Government have at least 300,000 Mausers in store, this explanation

is somewhat lame. Tewfik Pasha maintained that the loan was voluntary and purely patriotic, and that subscriptions would be collected from Christians as well as from Moslems, but admitted that the Imams would call upon the Moslems in the mosques to contribute, which is one of the most dangerous features of the scheme. He also stated that the papers of the following day would contain more explicit information about the loan, but no notice has yet appeared on the subject.

His Excellency admitted privately to my first Dragoman that he was personally opposed to the measure, and saw its danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 117.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 884.) *Constantinople, October 28, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of an article which appeared lately in the "Ikdam," a Turkish paper, said to be directly inspired by the Palace.

This article contains, as your Lordship will see, a violent attack upon the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Précis of Article in the "Ikdam."

THE "Ikdam" reproduces from the "Daily Telegraph" a telegram to the alleged effect that the Turkish Government is determined to put an end to all things which may trouble public tranquillity, and to punish all Armenian revolutionaries.

The writer then adds: "For centuries all the various communities established in the Ottoman dominions have enjoyed peace and tranquillity. It has been the main care of the Government that none should trouble them. But amongst the various nationalities the Armenians, not properly appreciating these benefits, have allowed themselves to be deceived by foolish and criminal agitators. It is clear that the Imperial Government will not swerve in the slightest degree from treating them as the law of justice requires. The treachery committed by the Armenians has not affected only the Mussulmans. They have brought upon themselves the curses of all the communities which bear the glorious name of Ottoman, and which rejoice in it, and through it enjoy all manner of benefits. Nor is that all. Throughout the world, not a single reasonable person is left who approves of or protects the Armenians. For the European papers which, being at a distance, have published many exaggerated and distorted accounts, have now recognized this and changed their tone during the last twenty or twenty-five days. If to-day untruth prevails, it will doubtless be dissipated to-morrow. Truth is the one thing which remains. The Ottoman rights are perfectly clear and free of all doubt. As the Government is convinced that, until it has exterminated the criminals, the peace and tranquillity of the country cannot be perfectly restored, it is the most important of the obligations of the Government that these low destroyers of civilization and humanity should be completely and fundamentally removed from our midst."

No. 118.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 886.) *Constantinople, October 28, 1896.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 788 of the 1st October I mentioned the arbitrary arrests of well-to-do Armenians, the best known of which was a certain Apik Effendi Oundjian. His case has since been tried before the Extraordinary Judicial Commission, and I now have the honour to inclose a Memorandum on the trial and sentence drawn up by Mr. Stavrides, whom I had instructed to watch the case.

I would point out to your Lordship that the trial of Apik Effendi before this Special Court, which was appointed for the sole purpose of expediting the trial of persons arrested in connection with the recent massacres, was a gross miscarriage of justice, as it deprived him of his right of appeal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Memorandum by Mr. Stavrides.

(No. 725.)

THE arrest of Apik Effendi Oundjian took place in consequence of a discovery of a revolver, some cartridges, and glycerine, in a school within the precincts of the Armenian church at Galata. The police also discovered at his house and office some documents which they held to be seditious. His case was brought before the Extraordinary Court, and the Procureur-Général drew up an indictment under the following heads:—

1. As a member of the Committee of Inspection of the school at Galata, he was responsible for what was found there.

2. He had in his possession a letter addressed to him by revolutionary Armenians appointing a meeting for consultation.

3. He had in his possession three letters of an objectionable character from the late Patriarch Nersès.

4. The "Manzume," an objectionable newspaper, was found at his office.

5. He had in his office a circular from the Catholics at Etchmidzin which was considered objectionable.

6. He was also responsible for certain cartridges discovered in the church at Scutari.

The Procureur-Général after enlarging on these various headings of the indictment, demanded the condemnation of the accused to death. The counsel for the defence began by denying any responsibility on the part of Apik Effendi for the discovery of a revolver and cartridges at the school at Galata. As to the card from the Armenian revolutionists discovered among his papers, the accused denied all knowledge of its existence, as his brother had opened the envelope and never shown him the contents. The card was simply in connection with an attempt of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee to levy blackmail, and was clearly proved to be so by the production of a previous threatening letter from the Committee demanding payment of 1,000 liras.

All the charges advanced by the prosecution were disproved by the evidence of the defence, but in spite of this Apik Effendi was condemned to three years' imprisonment in a fortress.

The above judgment caused a great sensation among the Armenians, and this system of persecuting wealthy Armenians, if continued, is likely to lead to further disturbances. I am informed on good authority that the members of the Court who had voted for his condemnation, gave as a reason for so doing, their fear that in the event of the prisoner being acquitted the man would be torn to pieces by the crowd outside. The absurdity of this reason is seen from the fact that at that hour, 10 P.M., there was certainly no crowd waiting outside.

Constantinople, October 22, 1896.

No. 119.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 667.) *Constantinople, October 29, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting on the state of the country through which he passed on his recent journey from Moush to Bitlis viâ Sasoun and Sairt.

I also inclose copy of a letter addressed by him to Mr. Whittall with regard to the economic and material condition of the inhabitants of the Sasun district.

I have to-day received a telegram from Mr. Monahan, reporting that five Armenians were released from prison at Bitlis a few days before Shakir Pasha's arrival there, and that six more have been released since his departure, so that there are now very few Armenians in prison there on political charges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 119.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 53.) *Bitlis, October 5, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here from Moush on the 1st instant after eleven days' journey through Sasoun and Sairt.

The Sasoun district appears to have enjoyed comparative tranquillity since the beginning of the spring. About three weeks ago the Bekiranli Kurds, accompanied by troops, came through Shattakh and Kurdish Sasoun on their way to their winter pasture lands. They are stated to have wounded one Armenian in Shattakh, and to have robbed him of eight sheep, but to have committed no other outrage.

I inclose, under flying seal, a letter to Mr. Whittall on the economic situation.

The Headmen of Semal, Guelieguzan, and Talori have been summoned by the authorities to arrange for the sale of the tithes, but nothing has been decided as to the basis on which tithes are to be taken from the relieved villages.

The 125 soldiers stationed at Halilan (Psank) have done some good service in keeping the district quiet. I found Halil, the notorious Agha of Kurdish Sasun, stopping as a guest of the Captain in command of the troops. Halil is known as the enemy of the Christians, Hishman, his rival, being their friend.

The Kaimakam of Haggo, the honest official whom Mr. Hampson met, subsequently explained to me that he himself had summoned Halil to Haggo to order him to desist from taking Hafirlik.

I spent a night at Temo, a Kurdish village between Halilan and Haggo. The Mukhtar of the village said very openly that their Sheikh, Memo, of Sheikhhan, had told the Kurds of Temo in the summer of 1894 that the Christians of Talori had got artillery to destroy the Kurds, and he (the Mukhtar), with the other Kurds, had fallen on Talori and robbed and killed many people, but that they had found nothing like artillery. He expressed his disgust of the affair, and said that the Turks, having ascertained there was no artillery in Talori, had spared the lives of the remaining Christians there.

At Haggo, which is near the boundary of the Sairt Sandjak, I heard, from an apparently trustworthy Mussulman informant, that a village of fifty houses about three hours from Haggo, in the Sairt Sandjak, called Gulemassian, had turned Mussulman during the troubles of last year, and that half of a village called Bebo had also turned Mussulman.

As to Bebo, I learnt in Sairt that it had contained only sixteen houses, which were all ruined, and that the inhabitants had become Mussulmans, but had since returned to Christianity. Gulemassian being on my road, I visited it and spent an hour there. I found it consisted of ten houses, of which five had become, and still were, Mussulman, four were Mussulman before the troubles, and one had since gone back to Christianity. I counted, however, the ruins of twenty-one houses, and was informed by the Headman that three years ago the village had consisted of forty houses, but that the inhabitants had scattered and emigrated owing to poverty and insecurity. The village was not attacked during the troubles last year. The villager who had returned to Christianity was about to leave the village on account of persecution.

In Sairt, where I spent a day and a-half, my own movements and those of my Dragoman were so carefully watched, and the people so intimidated, that it was unusually difficult to obtain information.

Sairt consists of about 400 Christians and 4,000 Mahommedan houses. From some apparently trustworthy informants, whose stories agreed, I obtained the following account of the massacre which occurred in the town last winter.

On the 11th November a Mussulman mob began an attack on the Chaldæan Church, but were driven off by zaptiehs. They then attacked the Gregorian school and the house of a Protestant Armenian, the zaptiehs doing nothing to hinder them. The school and the Protestant's house were plundered, and two Armenian teachers killed. On this a bugle sounded, and troops came marching through the streets. Kurds of the town and from outside began to plunder Christian houses and Christian shops, and the soldiers took part. The Kurds killed thirty Christians, all men; no Moslem was killed. No Catholic was robbed or killed; the sufferers were all Gregorians, Protestants or Chaldæans. Finally, some of the chief Moslems of the town began to shelter Christians in their houses, and quiet was restored. Few Christians in the town turned Moslem, and all subsequently became Christians again. The nine or ten non-Catholic Christian families which were comparatively wealthy are now entirely ruined, having neither furniture nor bedding in their houses. The rest of the Gregorian, Protestant, and Chaldæan communities were petty tradesmen and artizans, such as shoemakers and blacksmiths, and seem to have now established themselves in the cazas, and to be able to pick up a living.

I am inclined to think that not more than 200 or 300 persons were killed in the whole Sandjak of Sairt, but the number is uncertain. The destruction of villages was great. I was informed that, with the exception of the Shirvan Caza, of one large village in the Aro Caza, and of perhaps some few such cases as the five houses in Gulemassian, all the converted persons in the sandjak have returned to Christianity. There has been no official persecution in consequence of their return, and there seems to have been but little non-official persecution.

Several Kurdish nomad tribes are coming back towards Sairt in a week or two, when the settled Kurdish and Christian villages expect to be robbed as usual.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 119.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Mr. Whittall.

Sir, *Bitlis, October 5, 1896.*

IN accordance with your request, I give the following results of the inquiries which I have hitherto been able to make as to the prospects of the Christian villages of this vilayet for the coming winter.

As to the villages which I saw on my journey from Erzeroum to Moush, the only Christian villages of this vilayet which I saw on the journey are in the Moush plain. The harvest in the plain has been good, and the people have suffered comparatively little. So far as I can learn, there does not appear to be any need of relief for the Moush plain.

The Cazas of Boulanik (Moush Sandjak) and Akhlat (Bitlis Sandjak) also seem to be, comparatively speaking, fairly well off, though some villages of the latter caza have been entirely robbed.

I travelled to Bitlis viâ Sasoun and Sairt.

In Sasoun I visited the following places, which may require relief for the winter:—

Semal.—The people have not more than about two and a-half months' food.

Ghelieguzan.—According to the statements of villagers, confirmed to some extent, the people have only about two months' food.

Thus, relief to the extent of three or four months' food would be required for both Semal and Ghelieguzan.

Semal and Ghelieguzan both require sheep, but it is doubtful whether it would be wise to give them any in the present state of insecurity.

Talori.—(Hartk Ward visited.) The winter is shorter than in Semal and Ghelieguzan, and the people have three months' food, so that they would require relief in the shape of food for about two months only. This applies, I believe, to all Talori.

The people appear to have sufficient shelter in Semal, Gheliegusan, and all Talori; in Semal 10 houses only out of 73 being unbuilt, in Gheliegusan 30 or 40 out of 170, in Hartk 2 out of 6.

The condition of Shemik seems to be practically the same as that of Semal.

The above conclusions must be modified by the following considerations:—

Many of the inhabitants of Sasoun will probably migrate during the winter to the Plain of Moush and elsewhere.

The women of some villages of Sasoun might be encouraged by the gift of spinning-wheels to gain money by spinning. The industry of spinning for sale has not hitherto been known in Sasoun.

The people of Talori depended to a great extent on iron mines in their district, but have been robbed of all their mining tools. Ten sets of tools would probably give sufficient mining employment to all the people of Talori. The tools could be got from Erzeroum, and would cost about 4*l.* or 5*l.* a set. If the people knew they would have tools so as to begin mining in spring, they could now at once prepare for operations. The supply of these ten sets of tools (anvils, pumps, hammers, and pincers are said to be essential) would seem to be the most practical and least questionable of the relief measures that could at present be taken for Sasoun.

Sasoun is better off than other parts of the vilayet, which have not been relieved to the same extent. In Sairt Sandjak, for instance, the inhabitants of many of the villages are homeless and destitute; twelve villages of the Kharzan Caza in that sandjak are stated to be in ruins.

In Hizam Caza (Bitlis Sandjak) there is a similar state of things. I am advised that, if funds are limited, Sasoun should receive relief after other districts of the vilayet. As an exception, however, the money for tools for Talori might be at once granted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 120.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 332. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 29, 1896.

IN the course of a conversation which I had yesterday with Count Goluchowski, I asked his Excellency whether he had received any further news as to the views of the Russian Government in regard to the proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 123, Confidential, of the 20th instant.

His Excellency replied that he had heard nothing further beyond what he had already communicated to Sir Edmund Monson, reported in his Excellency's despatch No. 323 of the 24th instant, and he repeated that Austria wished for nothing better than that the question of reforms to be introduced in Turkey should be taken in hand by the six Ambassadors. Italy would be of the same opinion, and he did not imagine that Germany would raise any objections. In fact, an exchange of views had been initiated by the Italian Government with the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin in the sense of the proposals made by your Lordship, and the German Government had given a favourable reply to the representations made by the Italian Ambassador.

Count Goluchowski then reverted to the absolute necessity of complete unanimity between the Six Great Powers, and said that he was glad to see that this necessity was now universally acknowledged; and as the views of the Russian Government with regard to the introduction of reforms in Turkey seemed to have undergone a considerable change since he last spoke to Prince Lobanow on the subject, he was in hopes that satisfactory results might be obtained.

One of the principal matters to be treated would, of course, his Excellency concluded by saying, be the financial question; for, although the financial condition of Turkey was, perhaps, not so utterly hopeless as many people thought, yet some means would have to be found of raising funds, and in such case it would be indispensable not only that proper guarantees should be secured, but also that a very close supervision should be exercised over the mode of expenditure of the sums provided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 121.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 322. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 29, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 318 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that in a recent conversation which I have had with my Italian colleague, his Excellency told me that Baron von Marschall had spoken to him of the communication which, by your Lordship's instructions, I had made to the German Government on the 23rd instant, conveying your Lordship's proposals that "the Six Powers should instruct their Representatives to consider and report to their Governments what changes in the Government and Administration of the Turkish Empire are, in their judgment, likely to be most effective in maintaining the stability of the Empire and preventing the recurrence of the frightful cruelties by which the last two years have been lamentably distinguished."

Count Lanza said that Baron von Marschall had expressed great satisfaction at your Lordship having made this proposal. He foresaw that there might be considerable difficulty in obtaining an agreement on the part of the Powers to your Lordship's proposal that any unanimous decision at which the Ambassadors might arrive should be carried into operation and "will be executed up to the measure of such force as the Powers have at their disposal," but the very fact of your Lordship having made the proposal was a proof that Her Majesty's Government desired to maintain the European concert and had no intention of separating themselves from the other Powers.

I thanked Count Lanza for this information, and said that I was glad to learn that the German Government were at last convinced that Her Majesty's Government had no wish to take any isolated action with regard to the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 122.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 337. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 31, 1896.

HAVING had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 171 of the 27th instant, I inquired of Count Goluchowski, whom I had an occasion of conversing with yesterday, whether he had received any further information on the subject of the forced loan which is about to be made in Turkey.

His Excellency replied that he had received a long Report on the subject from Baron Calice, who had been instructed to make strong representations to the Porte in common with the other Ambassadors; but Baron Calice did not appear to attribute undue importance to the loan itself, as it seemed more than doubtful whether the attempts to raise it would meet with great success. Count Goluchowski, however, readily admitted the danger of the methods which were being adopted to obtain the loan, and which would only still further excite the fanaticism of the Mahommedan population, and recognized the necessity of remonstrating strongly with the Sultan on the subject.

His Excellency then went on to say that the King of Roumania had told him recently at Bucharest that he had trustworthy information that further massacres of Armenians were being planned at Constantinople, but he felt inclined to doubt this intelligence, and had himself heard nothing to lead him to believe there was any such immediate danger.

With regard to the Armenian reforms, Count Goluchowski felt that it was hopeless to expect their execution under present circumstances, and considered that this had been still further evidenced by the Sultan's language to M. de Nélidow. His Majesty had hitherto always counted on a divergence of interests between the different Powers, and it was not until he was convinced of their unanimity that there would be any prospect of inducing him to give way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 123.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 3, 1896, 1 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 420 of the 20th ultimo.

A telegram from Vienna was received by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires on the 1st instant, stating that the Russian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh that if all the Ambassadors at Constantinople agreed on any measures of advice he was prepared to join, but that he was adverse to coercion of the Sultan, from a fear that such a course might lead to revolution.

No. 124.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 4, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 260, marked Confidential.

I was unable to obtain from M. Chichkine a satisfactory answer to your Lordship's proposal in a long interview I had with him to-day. His Excellency would say no more than that he felt quite confident that some common ground could be found upon which a satisfactory arrangement for the amelioration of Turkey could be come to.

M. Chichkine's idea seemed to be that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should give their opinion on the proposal of the Russian Government and on that of your Lordship; the former being that the finances of the Empire should be administered by the Commission of the Public Debt, by whom the expenses of the administration, army, &c., should be defrayed, and that the Sultan should receive only the surplus.

In reply, I said that it was quite clear from your Lordship's despatch that your Lordship thought the Ambassadors were in the best position to say whether the extreme urgency of the situation would be met by such a measure as proposed by his Excellency, and that it seemed to me that your Lordship's proposal included the discussion of such remedial measures, with the further provision that any measure proposed should be adopted finally if it had met with the unanimous approval of the Powers. Therefore, the discussion of the measure proposed by his Excellency would be facilitated, rather than otherwise, by a preliminary acceptance of your Lordship's proposal.

M. Chichkine said that, at any rate, before any decision was come to, it was necessary to learn what the other Powers thought on the subject, but the idea of coercion implied in your Lordship's despatch was extremely distasteful to the Imperial Government.

(Secret.)

His Excellency remarked: "One does not make Diplomatic suggestions with regard to Turkey with a fleet of forty ships in the Mediterranean." His tone was not friendly.

No. 125.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 4, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 172 of the 3rd instant, I learn that the telegram from the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh merely recorded the impression he had derived from a conversation with M. Chichkine, and could not be regarded as an actual statement on the part of the Russian Government.

The belief prevails here that, as regards reforms in Turkey, there is but little probability of Russia's deviating from the policy pursued by Prince Lobanow. The question of finance is, it is thought, the one question which will be seriously taken in hand by Russia and France, and that only on account of the anxiety felt on the subject in French financial circles.

No. 126.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 333.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a debate on the recent events in Armenia was raised in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by M. Denys Cochin, a Deputy of the Right.

After depicting the scandalous persecutions to which the Armenians have been subjected during the last two years, and throwing the responsibility of the recent massacres on the Palace, M. Denys Cochin invited the Government to appeal to the "constant friendship" of Russia, in order that an end might be made of this reign of barbarism.

"The friendship of France entails corresponding duties, the first and most sacred being to know how to defend the weak, to take the part of the oppressed, and to make sacrifices on behalf of justice and liberty. Such is the price of the friendship of France. Pray explain it, M. le Ministre, to our friends."

M. Hanotaux, replying on behalf of the Government, after giving an historical summary of the Armenian movement, stated that in spite of the interest taken in Armenia by English diplomacy and Protestant Missions, Her Majesty's Government had seen, from the very beginning, the danger of isolated action. A scheme of reform was elaborated in the autumn of last year by the Ambassadors of England, Russia, and France; and, had it been put into immediate operation, perhaps the last disasters would have been avoided.

But for one reason or another the scheme of reforms was not enforced, and the massacres of last winter once more devastated these unhappy districts.

Last August the episode of the seizure of the Ottoman Bank was the pretext for excesses in the capital itself. Two duties then devolved on the Powers—to put an end to more deeds of violence, and to protect the European colonies. The measures taken to effect these ends were effectual, and "I can affirm that France made use of language both to the Ottoman Embassy here and through the French Embassy at the Porte, which left no room for doubt as to its weight or its meaning."

After a passing allusion to the successful negotiations with regard to Macedonia and Crete, his Excellency went on to explain the principles which should guide the Powers in finding a solution for the dangerous questions still pending; the first being "a firm and loyal agreement between all the Powers. The Governments are united in their efforts to find the elements of this agreement, and in order to consolidate it they are striving, at this very moment, to put aside or smooth away all that could divide them. The common action of the Embassies at Constantinople has shown, from the very beginning of the crisis, a most praiseworthy unanimity, and this united action, constantly strengthened by the approbation of the Cabinets, has obtained, specially in Crete and in Macedonia, the results to which I referred above.

"From the first principle arises directly a second, viz., that all idea of isolated action should be set aside. You have doubtless observed, Gentlemen, the public discussions on this subject in England, and have noticed the energy with which he who was till yesterday the leader of the Liberal party has preferred to resign rather than to place himself on this matter in contradiction with the formal declarations of the Head of the present Conservative Government.

"And, Gentlemen, there is yet a third deduction to make, and that is that if the action of the Powers can and ought to make itself felt at Constantinople in order to obtain from the Sultan an improvement in the conditions of public and private life in his Empire, such action ought not to aim any blow at the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and to the state of affairs guaranteed by Treaties."

His Excellency went on to say that there was no question of any direct interference ("immixtion directe"), nor of anything in the shape of a condominium. "This would be the most precarious and dangerous of expedients." Rather should European

diplomacy, acting with the Ottoman Government, seek a solution for improving the state of affairs in the Empire.

"Among the fruitful results of the visit of the Russian Emperor to Paris may be counted this, that especially on the subject now before the Chamber, a precise exchange of views has taken place.

"We hope that united Europe will make herself understood by the Sultan; that she will warn him against evil influences; that she will know how to prove to him that there is no question of favouring this or that district or religion, but that all, Catholics, Armenians, Orthodox, and Mussulmans now suffering from the same evils, and are asking for the same reforms. . . . . She will ask him to put in force the reforms already granted; to extend them where necessary; to put an end to the deeds of violence, and to open the prison doors. He will be told yet more authoritatively, if necessary, that the existence of the European colonies has been intrusted to him, and that he is bound to give security, public peace, and order not only to his own subjects, but to all residing in Ottoman territory. In a word, means will be found to show him that a strong and loyal policy such as this is the only one he can adopt, and that thus only can he and his find honour and safety."

Eventually an order of the day was adopted by 402 against 90 votes, to the effect that the Chamber, approving the declarations of the Government, passes to the order of the day.

I beg to inclose the full report of this interesting debate as published in to-day's "Journal Officiel."*

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 127.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 4, 1896, 7·50 P.M.*

MY despatch No. 333 of this day's date.

I have been requested by Minister for Foreign Affairs specially to direct your Lordship's attention to his Excellency's speech in the Chamber of Deputies.

M. Hanotaux hopes that it will be clear from it that the Government of the Republic are fully confident that Her Majesty's Government and all the Powers are acting with thorough disinterestedness.

European diplomacy, his Excellency believes, has not yet come to the end of its resources, and if a "solemn mandate" were given to the Representatives of the Powers the Sultan would soon be brought to reason.

In his opinion, the end of the Sultan and his surroundings would be the result of any further massacre, and he assures me that he has used much stronger language at Constantinople than was contained in his speech.

His Excellency also told me that he hoped within a few days to send a reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th October.

No. 128.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 443.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 6, 1896, 6·25 P.M.*

M. DE NELIDOFF leaves for St. Petersburgh on the 9th and the Austrian Ambassador for Egypt on the 11th. The latter will return in about a fortnight.

---

* Not printed.

No. 129.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 106. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 6, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 174 of the 5th instant, I beg to state that I am told by Count Goluchowski that he is quite prepared to authorize Baron Calice to study, in conjunction with the other Ambassadors, the questions of Turkish reform as suggested by your Lordship, but that he is altogether opposed to the making of any further proposals of reform to the Sublime Porte, unless the Powers come to a distinct prior understanding that their execution will be insisted upon, even if the use of coercion should be found necessary.

On my observing that such a course would hardly be adopted by Russia, his Excellency said that no authoritative statement had, as yet, been received by him from M. Chichkine; he was, however, convinced that if an agreement was come to by the Powers as to the necessity of imposing their will on Turkey, the Sultan would at once give way.

He was strong in his language as to the impossibility of the Powers being exposed to another rebuff from the Sultan.

Respecting the financial reforms proposed by Russia, Count Goluchowski was not opposed to such a project on the understanding that the matter should be seriously carried out, but he would most distinctly not countenance the idea if the interests of the Paris financiers were alone to be served. He did not, moreover, see how, without the threat of force in case of refusal, the Sultan could be induced to agree to the project put forward by Russia.

No. 130.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of my despatch reporting the action of the Turkish authorities with regard to a number of Armenians shipped as seamen on board the British merchant-steamer "Ayrshire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Salonica, November 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Victor Bey, Director of Political Affairs, called upon me this morning to inform me that his Excellency the Governor-General had received a telegram from the Minister of Police stating that five Armenian passengers were on board the British merchant-vessel "Ayrshire," which arrived here yesterday from Batoum to discharge a cargo of petroleum, and directing him not to allow them to land, as otherwise they would be liable to arrest. I replied that I doubted if there were any passengers on board the "Ayrshire," but that I would inform the master of his Excellency's message. I find now that there are no passengers, but that there are several Armenians on board, who were shipped as seamen at Constantinople on the 12th June, 1896.

I advised the master, under the circumstances, not to give leave of absence to these men.

One of the crew, a Turk, had landed this afternoon, and was taken to the police-station, where he was investigated, and shortly after he was allowed to return on board.

The "Ayrshire" will be leaving this port on or about the 6th instant for Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 131.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 7.)

(No. 334. Confidential.) *Paris, November* 5, 1896.

My Lord,

ON calling on M. Hanotaux yesterday, his Excellency's weekly reception day, I said that I had read with great interest his speech in the Chamber on the previous day on the Armenian question.

M. Hanotaux replied that he was glad I had mentioned the subject, as he was particularly desirous that your Lordship's attention should be called to his speech.

I assured him that I had already forwarded to your Lordship the full text, as reported in the "Journal Officiel."

M. Hanotaux said that he trusted his words would meet with approval in England; he had carefully weighed them (I should mention that the whole speech was committed to writing beforehand, and read to the Chamber), and he hoped they would go far to dissipate the distrust ("méfiance") of England, which it would be foolish of him to deny existed in some quarters.

"It is needless for me to add that I do not share this feeling myself, but none the less it exists."

I replied that the one point which did not seem quite clear in his speech was, what was to be done in the event of the Sultan still proving recalcitrant to the voice of "united Europe?" In this case, how were the recommendations of the Ambassadors to be enforced?

His Excellency answered that this, of course, was the chief point of your Lordship's Circular despatch of the 20th October, to which he had not yet sent a reply; before doing so, he wished that his speech should be read by the Porte and the Powers, and, on learning the effect it produced at Constantinople and in Europe, he would be the better enabled to judge what further steps should be agreed upon in the event of the Sultan refusing to execute the promised reforms.

But his Excellency believes that European diplomacy has not yet spoken its last word; and has every reason to hope that, if what he designated as a "mandat solennel" were given to the Ambassadors, the Sultan would yield to the unanimous voice of Europe.

He went on to say that, in his opinion, any further massacres of Christians in Constantinople or elsewhere in Turkey would be the death knell of the Sultan and the existing régime; and he assured me that he had spoken much more strongly in this sense both to the Turkish Ambassador here and at Constantinople, than he was able to do from the tribune of the Chamber.

On rising to take my leave, his Excellency added that he hoped shortly to be able to send an answer to your Lordship's despatch above referred to.

Both the German Ambassador and the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, whom I have seen since the debate, are of opinion that the French Government will with difficulty be brought to assent to a policy of coercion; and this opinion would seem to be borne out by the passage in M. Hanotaux' speech in which his Excellency distinctly repudiates any "immixtion directe," or anything in the shape of a condominium.

The press are generally agreed in applauding the attitude taken up by the Foreign Minister; and, whatever may be the answer eventually returned to your Lordship's proposal, the debate of the 3rd instant, in which all parties agreed in reprobating the cruelties which have disgraced the Turkish Administration, must have its effect at Constantinople.

Hitherto the Porte may have been able to say that public opinion in France, as represented by the chief organs of the press, was indifferent to the fate of the Armenians; this, at any rate, can no longer be alleged, in view of the scathing condemnation indorsed by the Chamber of the treatment accorded to the Armenian subjects of the Sultan.

The amended analysis of the voting, as published in this morning's "Journal des Débats," shows that the order of the day accepted by the Government was carried by 563 to 126 votes, the minority being composed of seventy Radicals and fifty-six Socialists.

The latter, through their spokesman, M. Jaurès, had proposed a much more strongly worded order of the day, deploring the international jealousies which had prevented

Europe from exercising a common action in the East, and expressing the wish that "the workmen of all countries" should unite in creating a movement of opinion in favour not only of the Armenians, but of all the populations of the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 132.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 445.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1896.

THE Acting British Consul at Angora telegraphs that a massacre occurred on the 30th ultimo at Everek, a village 24 miles south of Cæsarea. The aggressors were Turks, Circassians, and Kurds, and the attack was commenced from within and from without simultaneously. The authorities made an ineffectual attempt to quell the disturbance. Mr. Richards estimates that 100 Armenians were killed, fifty houses burnt, and thirty shops plundered.

No. 133.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 247. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 27, 1896.

ON the day on which I received your Lordship's despatch No. 260, Confidential, of the 20th instant, M. Chichkine was indisposed. I had, therefore, to wait until yesterday before I could carry out your Lordship's instructions.

After I had read the despatch to his Excellency, he observed that he could give no reply before the arrival at St. Petersburgh of His Majesty the Emperor. He added that he did not think there would be any objections to your Lordship's proposal, "at least, on the part of the Imperial Government."

He said that, while not defending the Sultan, whose recent conduct had completely alienated every one's sympathy, he felt bound to state that His Majesty's position was very difficult, owing to want of funds.

He attributed the deplorable excesses committed by the Turkish soldiery chiefly to their want of the wherewithal to obtain the necessaries of life, and he maintained that, without the better and more regular payment of Government officials and employés, there could be no reform in the administration of the country. There were no funds available for this purpose, and this, he considered, was the key to the whole situation. He hinted that he was going to impress this strongly upon the Emperor, as he was sure that if the finances of the Empire could be put upon a soundor basis, and its revenues diverted into the proper channels, it would go far towards restoring order, and might possibly prove a remedy for the present acute phase of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.

(In the absence of Her Majesty's Ambassador),

(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 134.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 4, 1896.

AS His Majesty the Emperor returned to St. Petersburgh on Saturday last, I called upon M. Chichkine to-day and asked his Excellency whether he could now give me an answer to the proposal contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 260, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo.

I expressed, at the same time, the hope that his Excellency's impression that there would be no objection to that proposal on the part of the Imperial Government had been confirmed, and that I should be able to convey a favourable reply to your Lordship.

His Excellency answered that he hoped that some common ground might be found upon which the Powers might come to a complete agreement as to the best means of remedying the present state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire.

I pointed out to his Excellency, in reply, that the basis of such an agreement as his Excellency desired was to be found in your Lordship's proposal that the Ambassadors at Constantinople, as the best judges of what measures would best suit the occasion, should devise and submit to their Governments some remedy which would meet the views of all the Powers. It was, I ventured to submit, not necessary to go farther to seek a common ground upon which an agreement could be made.

His Excellency said that he quite agreed with your Lordship in thinking that the Ambassadors were the best judges of what was required for the amelioration of the state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, and therefore he thought that they should be called upon to give an opinion on your Lordship's proposal and that which had been submitted by the Imperial Government; the latter being that the Commission of the Public Debt should take over the whole administration of the Turkish finances, and see that the money was spent in such a manner as to strengthen the Government of the country and enable it to carry out the necessary reforms.

His Excellency added that such a measure would, he felt assured, remove the great obstacle in the way of reform—namely, the want of money.

I replied that such a measure might, or might not, have the effect desired, but that, in any case, it was one on the efficacy or adequacy of which the Ambassadors would be in the best position to form an opinion; and that, under your Lordship's proposal, this would be what they would be called upon to do, as it was clearly your Lordship's intention that such remedial measures should form the subject of their discussions and reports. A preliminary arrangement, however, on the lines proposed by your Lordship, would give weight and authority to such discussions, and a knowledge of its existence would go far towards convincing the Sultan that he could no longer evade the necessity of a thorough change in his method of Government and administration.

Therefore, it would seem to be more satisfactary if, instead of submitting the two proposals to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, the Imperial Government could first give their adhesion to the arrangement proposed by your Lordship—to the principle of which his Excellency would seem to have no objections—and then, afterwards, in the event of a general agreement on the subject, also invite the Ambassadors to give their opinion on the remedial measures proposed by his Excellency.

As M. Chichkine seemed to express dissent, I asked him whether there was any particular point in your Lordship's despatch to which he took exception. He replied that it was the coercion implied in the last paragraph to which he objected, and he added that the idea of having resort to coercive measures against the Sultan was extremely repugnant to His Majesty the Emperor.

I pointed out to his Excellency that once it could be unmistakably shown to the Sultan that all the Powers were in complete accord, and that they were one and all determined that the present misgovernment of the Ottoman Empire should cease, there was not much probability that coercive measures would be necessary. The mere idea that the Powers were united and in earnest would be quite sufficient; and that idea could be best conveyed to the Sultan by an agreement such as that proposed by your Lordship.

M. Chichkine replied that, at any rate, he could not give a definite answer as to your Lordship's proposal before he ascertained how it was regarded by the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Her Majesty's Ambassador),
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 135.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 895.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Richards, Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora, transmitting a Report on the Eskishehr-Koniah Branch Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)

Sir, *Angora, October 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 80 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency a Report (in duplicate) on the Eskishehr-Koniah branch of the Anatolian Railway, based partly on information supplied by the British Vice-Consul at Koniah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Report by Acting Consul Richards on the Eskishehr–Koniah Branch Railway.

THE work of constructing this important branch of the Anatolian Railway was commenced at the beginning of September 1893, but owing to an outbreak of cholera which occurred shortly afterwards, the progress at first was slow. However, the first section, which was carried as far as Kutahia, a distance of about 47 miles, was opened to traffic towards the end of the following year, which, considering the ravages of disease, and the still more important fact that this is by far the most difficult part of the line, was not so bad.

The next section, as far as Afloun Karahissar, about 58 miles, was opened in August 1895, and a third section which extended as far as Akshehr, another 60 miles, was finished by the end of that year. The fourth and final section, which covers a distance of 104 miles, was completed and ready for traffic by the end of July of this year.

The construction of the line was undertaken by a Company founded for the purpose under the auspices of the International Bank Gesellschaft, an institution which has been engaged in similar enterprises in other parts of Turkey.

By the terms of the contract for construction, the line had to be completed by the 1st November, 1896, the work being done at a fixed price per kilom., and under forfeit. The actual cost of making this line is put at 1,804,480*l.*, so that the distance between Eskishehr and Koniah being 269·26 miles, the expenditure incurred has been at a rate of a little more than 6,924*l.* per mile.

There was, as mentioned above, rather heavy work between the stations of Eskishehr and Kutahia, but during the remainder of the distance the country traversed presents few if any engineering difficulties, and, indeed, nothing at all to be compared with those which had to be encountered during the construction of the main line from Ismidt to Eskishehr.

One train is run daily each way, the whole distance between Eskishehr and Koniah being traversed in fifteen hours, *i.e.*, at an average speed, including stoppages, of 18 miles an hour.

It is a single line railway of the ordinary broad gauge, the sleepers, which, as well as the rails, are of steel, being laid 75 centim. from centre to centre.

There are in all 687 bridges on the line, of which, however, 124 only may be properly so termed, the remaining 563 being merely small openings in or under the permanent way, just wide enough to admit of the passage of water, &c., from one side of the line to the other. Of the 124 bridges proper only 36 are of any appreciable size, the three longest being 30 metres (nearly 33 yards) in length. These bridges are all made of iron. There are also 12 side culverts.

There are between the 32nd and 34th kilom. three tunnels of 36, 50, and 66 metres in length, respectively, while between kilom. 93 and 94 there is a "covered cutting" (so described) of 50 metres in length.

In general, at all events from Kutahia on to Koniah, the line traverses an uniformly flat country presenting very few natural obstacles, so that it is all the more surprising that its course should be so remarkably sinuous. This, however, is explained by the fact that the Turkish Government has guaranteed to the Company a gross revenue of 945*l.* per mile. It would appear, however, that the total amount payable on account of guarantee for this branch of the Anatolian Railway is not to exceed 327*l.* per mile.

The exact amount of rolling-stock on this line cannot be ascertained. The passenger coaches belonged originally to the Haidar Pasha Ismidt Railway Company, and are of the same date of construction as those in use on the main line between Eskishehr and Angora. I believe that the locomotives, waggons, and trucks, especially the two latter, have been borrowed from the stock belonging to this line, because there is a great scarcity of waggons now at Angora, as grain exporters have discovered to their cost.

The waggons and trucks, other than cattle trucks, have a loading capacity of 15 tons.

In order to facilitate the construction of the line the work was portioned out among thirteen sub-contractors, who, however, only undertook the earthworks and the ballasting, the sleepers and rails being laid by the Company itself. As regards the building of stations, engine-houses, magazines, depôts, &c., the line was divided into two sections for purposes of contract.

The number of workmen engaged on the construction of this line cannot be ascertained. The bulk of them appear to have been Turks, Italians coming next, and then Germans.

The Koniah station, which is nearly 1¾ miles distant from the centre of the town, cannot be said to be well built; this indeed may be predicated of all the stations on the line. Besides the station itself, there is a magazine or goods depôt (45 metres in length by 8 inches in breadth), an engine-house, a house for the Traffic Superintendent, another for the resident engineer and doctor, and some smaller buildings for the minor officials and employés, the whole being more than adequate for existing requirements.

The station at Karahissar is as large as that of Koniah, though its good depôt is considerably smaller. All the other stations are smaller than the two first mentioned.

It has been found impossible to ascertain the separate cost of construction of all these buildings.

Speaking generally, all the stations are situated at a considerable distance from the towns and villages to which they belong, which fact, of course, makes no small addition to the cost of transport of all goods conveyed over the new line. Indeed, it would appear that in some places where the grain export trade is relatively considerable, as, for instance, at Karahissar, Akshehr, Ilghun, Tchai, and Kadin Khan, merchants will be compelled to build granaries and warehouses in close vicinity to the station owing to the distance of the latter from the town.

Two complete Tariffs have been issued by the Company, the first in June 1895 and the second in August of the present year. It is asserted, I am told, by Koniah merchants that, according to these Tariffs, there being no great difference between the two, freights are very nearly as high now as they were before the line was made, *i.e.*, when camels and bullock-carts were the only means of conveyance. This, however, would appear to be an exaggeration. At the same time, it is an undoubted fact that so far Koniah merchants have made no attempt to enter into business relations direct with Constantinople, on the ground that the high rates of transport do not admit of a sufficient margin of profit.

Several Petitions have been addressed to the local authorities in order to obtain a modification of the Tariff, one result of which has been the quite recent reduction of freights for grain, the transport of a waggon load (15 tons) from Koniah to Haidar Pasha (Constantinople) being now only £T. 20 (18*l.*).

The districts traversed by the new line, more especially those lying between Eskishehr and Afioun Karahissar, and even perhaps as far as Akshehr, are remarkably

fertile and rich in all kinds of grain, opium, cotton, sesame, valonia, every kind of vegetable and fruit, vineyards, linseed, tobacco, not to mention the large quantities of mohair and wool available for exportation.

The principal towns on the line are Eskishehr, with a population of 23,000, Kutahia, with 22,266, Afioun Karahissar, with 17,436, Akshehr, with 12,500, Ilghun, with 8,500, Tchai, with 4,100, and, finally, Koniah, with 44,000.

The grain production of the Kutahia district is estimated at 2,530,546 hectolitres annually, *i.e.*, 6,993,751 bushels.

The following small Tables will give a rough idea of the export and import trade of the Kutahia district:—

EXPORTS.

	£
Meerschaum	72,727
Mohair	45,454
Wool (fine)	10,909
„ (inferior)	5,455
Grain (of all kinds)	45,454
Opium	3,636
Total	183,635

IMPORTS.

	£
Manufactured goods	9,090
Sugar	5,454
Coffee	4,545
Petroleum	3,636
Various	18,180
Total	40,905

The following Table again will give a general idea of the remarkable productivity of the district of Afioun Karahissar:—

AVERAGE Annual Crops.

Articles.	Quantity.	
Grain (of all kinds)	Bushels ..	11,750,836
Opium	Lbs. ..	772,200
Valonia	Cwts. ..	97,232
Vegetables (various)	„ ..	53,216
Fruits (various)	„ ..	39,285
Olive oil	Lbs. ..	217,800
Honey	„ ..	528,000
Mohair	„ ..	264,000
Wool	„ ..	347,600
Goats' hair	„ ..	198,000
Linseed	„ ..	371,615
Sesame	„ ..	264,000
Cotton	Cwts. ..	9,959
Grapes	„ ..	19,642
Walnuts	„ ..	13,491
Chestnuts	„ ..	10,882
Silk	Lbs. ..	44,000
Hemp	„ ..	44,000
Various	„ ..	998,580

From the central caza—sub-district—of Karahissar alone there has been hitherto an annual export trade in opium amounting to 316,096 lbs., which represents considerably more than one-third of the whole production of the district (sandjak). This trade has hitherto followed either the Dinor or Alashehr route to Smyrna, the former being the present terminus of the Smyrna–Aidin Railway, while the latter occupies the same position as regards the Smyrna–Cassaba line. A certain quantity of Karahissar opium has also been exported by the Broussa–Moudania route. No information is available as regards the productivity and trade of the Akshehr and Ilghun sub-districts, taken

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

individually, but as they, as well as the small town of Tchai, are included in the central district (Merkez Sandjak) of Koniah, no separate mention is necessary.

The principal agricultural and other products of the Koniah district are grain (of all kinds), opium, valonia, yellow berries, cotton, wool, mohair, cattle, goat-skins, &c. The manufacture of carpets forms the chief native industry in Koniah, after which come the striped cotton fabrics known as "aladja," both of which command a large sale all over this country.

The export trade of the central district of Koniah is valued approximately at 1,000,000*l.* annually, while the imports are put at 480,000*l.* I am inclined to think, however, that the former figures are a little exaggerated.

The imports into the province of Koniah consist of cotton fabrics, cotton twist and yarn, colonials, hardware, glassware and china, petroleum, rice, spirits, &c., nearly all of which are brought from Smyrna viâ Diner.

The cost of transport of all sorts of goods from Koniah to Smyrna viâ Diner is at the rate of 6 piastres (silver) per quintal of 44 okes, which is equivalent to 1*s.* per 123·2 lbs. The freight of the same class of goods, on the other hand, conveyed to Constantinople over the Eskishehr–Haidar Pasha Railway amounts to 6*s.* 11*d.* per 220 lbs. In other words, the freight of 1 cwt. of general merchandize, specified as first-class goods, from Koniah to Smyrna viâ Diner, is only 6½ piastres (silver)—say 11*d.*—whereas by the Eskishehr–Haidar Pasha route, it amounts to nearly 22 piastres (gold)—say 1*s.* Such a very great difference seems hardly credible, but it would appear to be the case.

Not only so, but the Aidin Railway Company undertakes to deliver goods direct into the consignee's depôt at Smyrna, whereas by the Anatolian Railway goods reach the hands of the consignee through the medium of one or two commission agents patronized by the Company, who make high charges for the transport of goods from the Haidar-Pasha wharf to the Galata or Stamboul Custom-houses, and not, as at Smyrna, to the consignee's warehouse. I am even assured by competent authorities that Smyrna will always enjoy a considerable superiority over Constantinople, owing to the heaviness of the harbour expenses in the latter port, where also the local petty charges are double those which are incurred at Smyrna. In short, it may be predicted that, unless the Anatolian Railway Company reduces its freights very considerably, the Aidin Railway will continue to hold its own as regards the trade of the Afioun Karahissar–Koniah region.

At the same time, it must be admitted that if the Koniah–Eskishehr–Haidar Pasha Tariff be compared with that of the main line, it will be seen that there is very little difference between them, and that, indeed, if anything, it is the latter which is the heavier of the two. In order to facilitate this comparison, a small Table is annexed showing the cost of transport of some of the chief articles of export by the Angora and Koniah lines:—

Article.	Quantity.	Cost per kilom.
	Lbs.	*s. d.*
Angora to Haidar Pasha: Grain	57·2	0 5½
Do.	16·2	0 6½
Koniah: Valonia	55	0 11
Angora: Do.	48·4	0 7½
Koniah: Do.	48·4	0 10½
Angora: Yellow berries	16·2	0 6½
Do.	16·2	0 9½
Koniah: Wool	59·4	0 10½
Do.	16·2	1 1½
Koniah: Mohair	59·4	0 10½
Do.	16·2	1 1½
Koniah: Opium	16·2	3 10
Do.		Not tarrified.

Chrome, of which it is expected there will be a considerable exportation from Kutahia, is tarrified at the rate of 1,200 piastres (gold) (10*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*) per waggon of 15 tons to either Ismidt or Derindjé. If, however, the exporter guarantees the dispatch of 3,000 tons yearly, he will be allowed a drawback amounting to £ T. 1 (18*s.* 2*d.*) per waggon.

Salt, of which there are very large quantities in the neighbourhood of Koniah, will be charged at the rate of 8½ piastres (gold) (1*s.* 6*d.*) per waggon per kilom. plus a fixed

surcharge of 135 piastres (gold) (1*l.* 4*s.* 6½*d.*) per waggon. But here again any exporter who undertakes to fill 100 waggons in the course of the year will receive from the Company a drawback of 50 per cent. on the whole freight due. This seems a very large reduction, but the fact is, that hitherto there has been no exportation whatever of salt from Koniah on account of the heavy charges of transport, which in so cheap an article have to be taken very seriously into consideration. Koniah salt, equally with that which is produced in this province, is consumed locally for this very reason, that although the supply is far in excess of the local demand, yet the cost of transporting it by rail (say) to Constantinople would so raise its price as to make it unsaleable except at a dead loss. The Anatolian Railway Company is evidently trying to remedy this defect by establishing low freights, coupled with a system of drawbacks of a most liberal character; but even so, it is very doubtful how far they will succeed. At Ismidt, for instance, a drawback of 25 per cent. is allowed for every twenty-five waggon loads of salt dispatched to Constantinople, while for fifty waggons so laden, a deduction of 51 per cent. is made on the whole freight due. Here at Angora a drawback of 58 per cent. is allowed for every fifty waggon loads of salt, and yet neither here, nor, I believe, at Ismidt, is any salt sent by rail to Constantinople.

As is well known, the Smyrna–Aidin Railway Company are making strenuous efforts to obtain a Firman for the prolongation of their system to Tchai, a small town, as mentioned above, situated about half-way between Afioun Karahissar and Akshehr. Should they succeed in attaining their object, and consequently in making this railway, which presents few, if any, physical difficulties, it is highly probable that the greater part, if not the whole, of the produce of the extremely rich districts lying between Koniah and Afioun Karahissar, will pass along the Aidin line to Smyrna rather than by the Anatolian Railway to Constantinople. At least, this will probably be the case for a time, until the Smyrna–Cassaba line reaches Karahissar, when, of course, the competition between these two rival lines will be of a most serious character. This contingency, however, need not be taken into consideration for another four or five years, it being improbable that the Alashehr–Ushak–Karahissar branch of the Cassaba line will be completed and opened for traffic before then. In any case, it is Smyrna which will profit by the opening up of this rich country, and not Constantinople.

While on the subject of rival lines and routes with which the Anatolian Railway will be brought into competition, it naturally occurs to any one considering the subject that surely the best outlet for Koniah products should be looked for in the south-east, south, or south-west, rather than in the north-west.

Adalia is, of course, the nearest post, but, owing to the extremely mountainous and, in parts, almost impassable nature of the country lying between it and Koniah, not to mention its marked inferiority as a sea-port, only very small steamers being able to anchor in the harbour on account of the shallowness of the water, which is nowhere more than 2 fathoms in depth, there is no probability of this place becoming the main outlet for Koniah trade, at all events, under present conditions.

On the other hand, there is a good road as far as Caraman, a flourishing town situated nearly due south of Koniah, about half-way between that city and the small seaport of Selefkia. The road from Caraman to Selefkia, however, passes through some very narrow and steep gorges in the Taurus range, where in parts water is very scarce; indeed, I am assured that between Maghara and Selefkia no water whatever is obtainable, although this was not always the case, seeing that there are ruins of ancient cities still visible along a greater part of the route. All the grain produced in the southern portion of the immense plain of Koniah, as well as that of the surrounding districts, finds its way to Selefkia by this route.

The other road, which branches off from Caraman to Mersina, is not finished yet, though it was begun ten years ago. This route, too, passes through some very difficult country, many of the gorges which it traverses being quite impassable during winter, and yet it is the channel for the important trade of the Cæsarea, Nigdé, Nevshehr, Urgub, and other conterminous districts. As regards repairs, even those of the simplest and most necessary description, the Koniah Vilayet authorities have hitherto done nothing.

In conclusion, I have only to add that I hear that so far the Company have no complaint to make as regards their receipts from the new branch line; but, of course, it is very early days to form a conclusion one way or the other.

Angora, October 24, 1896. (Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 136.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 896.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Van as to the state of the vilayet and Shakir Pasha's visit thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Van, October 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this province remains in an extremely critical state, but I hope that, if nothing unforeseen occurs, there will be no outbreak. The revolutionists who escaped from here have had encounters with one or two small bodies of troops, losing a few of their number each time; but according to the latest reports, they are well on their way to the Persian frontier. The greatest precautions continue to be taken in the town, both to control the Mahommedan element and to prevent the revolutionists getting in. Achmet Pasha, an influential Kurdish Chief in Shakir Pasha's suite, has been sent to interview the Kurdish Aghas of the province. I am informed that he has been instructed to persuade them to keep quiet, and to give notice of the passage of any revolutionists to the military authorities who will deal with them. His visit cannot fail to do good.

Saadeddin Pasha left suddenly yesterday for Constantinople. The Mouavin went with him, nominally on leave, but there is no doubt that he is (I think unjustly) considered as compromised by a letter found on the body of a revolutionist.

Shakir Pasha left yesterday also by boat *en route* for Bitlis, about which place there appears to be some anxiety. The state of affairs prevented his being able to do much here. Schemes have been made out, and given to the Executive authorities to carry out, as the state of the country may permit. One small but important reform has, however, been put in operation. A small Mixed Committee has been formed to examine all persons who may be arrested. They will act as advisers of the Vali, who, on their report, will decide whether they be released or passed on to the Juge d'Instruction. With a thoroughly honest man like the Vali, this reform should give valuable results. The rest of the reforms must perforce stand over until security is re-established, which it cannot be whilst the revolutionary movement continues.

There are, however, two matters which may be usefully considered, as they affect Christian and Moslem alike, and do not present the difficulties inseparable from many of the, so to speak, official reforms.

There is an Agricultural Bank here, which is supposed to lend money to the villagers at 8 per cent. Instead of doing this, it lends money to certain persons who, I understand, make a large profit by lending to villagers at 20 per cent. for three months. Such a system entirely does away with its usefulness. If security should be re-established, use should be made of this bank to enable those villages which have been pillaged to make a fresh start. But to do any good, categorical orders must be sent from Constantinople that certain sums are to be offered as loans on, of course, the security of the land, &c., to the inhabitants of each village, Christian or Moslem.

The second, and perhaps the most important point, is the collection of the "dimes." The scheme of reforms seems to have only touched the fringe of the question, and leaves the door open to numberless abuses. It would appear that the simplest and most satisfactory way, either from the point of view of the Government or the peasants, would be to adopt something like the system of the "Indian land settlement"—the principle being that the tax paid by the peasant is assessed for a term of years, thus encouraging him to increase his crops.

One of the great evils of the present system is that a large amount of grain is thrown upon the market at the same time, lowering the price unduly, and benefiting only

the townspeople, who can well afford to take care of themselves. Briefly, I would suggest that villages be assessed on the average receipts by the Government for the last ten years, and that they should pay in cash three months after the harvest—the first assessment to remain in force for, say, six or eight years. I discussed the matter with the Vali, who is quite of my opinion, and says he will write a Report about it. Danish Bey, Shakir Pasha's Secretary, told me that some experiments were being made on these lines in European Turkey, and that there were some difficulties, which however do not exist here.

As regards the points noted in your Excellency's Circular of the 9th May, I have the honour to inform you that the critical state of this province during the whole time of Shakir Pasha's visit here precluded any detailed conversation on the points in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 137.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 897.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting the release of Armenian political prisoners in the Adana and Aleppo provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Adana, October 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, as a result of my recent journey and visit to Kozan, I have now obtained the release of some twenty more Armenian political prisoners in that district. There are not many now remaining in confinement without trial, and I shall continue my efforts to obtain their trial or release.

I have been informed that some thirty political prisoners have been given their liberty since my visit to Marash, and my representations on that matter. These men had been in confinement, untried and uncondemned, since November 1895.

Three days ago some innocent Armenians having arrived at Adana from Aintab, on their way to Mersina to follow their trade, they were cast into prison. I at once made representations to the Governor-General, and these people are now at Mersina at liberty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 138.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 910.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the distribution of relief in the Kozan district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 55.)

Sir, *Adana, October* 23, 1896.

WITH reference to my recent journey to Hadjin district, and my appeals for monetary assistance for the Christian population, to which your Excellency so generously responded by obtaining 500*l.* for us, I have much pleasure in informing your Excellency that the villages in Kozam most requiring aid have now had their most pressing needs satisfied. The three largest and most important of these are Shahr, Roumloo, and Yéré-bakan, and they have received oxen and corn for seed purposes. In Mr. Martin's words, who, with his usual kindness, has attended to this important matter for me, "They are fully satisfied and very grateful. They admit they do not want any more in that line. Some, however, will need food this winter."

Mr. Martin also mentions that he is about to distribute some aid in Hadjin town. As he may be leaving for a holiday, I am writing to him to arrange as to necessary relief in his absence, in case your Excellency can assist us with the much-needed funds, the amount of which I shall forward later.

I trust your Excellency may be able to assist us to establish handicrafts in Hadjin. I consider this the most urgent necessity in this province at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 139.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 912.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 4, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting on the increased oppression of Armenians in the Adana Vilayet.

I am making representations on the subject to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Adana, October* 23, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, although everything is quiet in this province at present, matters connected with the Armenians are not at all in a satisfactory state.

From what is going on one cannot help forming the impression that fresh orders from Constantinople must have reached the Government officials to further oppress this wretched people, and to drive them to despair.

I beg to give your Excellency a few examples of what is going on.

After my visit to Hadjin this spring, I prevailed on the Governor-General of Adana to allow the wretched starving inhabitants to go to other places if they desired, in order to there prosecute their various handicrafts. A certain number left on my assurance that they would not be molested or persecuted in any way. This week a large number of these have been sent back from Adana, Kaiserieh, and other places, under guard of police, on foot, their animals having been seized by the Government.

They are going back to starvation, as doubtless any little money they had has also been looted by these unprincipled officials. I would respectfully suggest that this case be made the subject for a strong protest to the Grand Vizier, as by these acts the Government is driving the Hadjinlis to starvation.

I recently found it necessary to request the Governor-General to cause the evacuation of a Protestant building in Osmanié, used as a school, church and priest's house, and built with mission funds. As a result, the priest or preacher, Giragos Agha Mamalian, and a few more leading Protestants, have been seized and imprisoned on an absurdly false charge of murder.

Some ten days ago a few Armenians were seized and imprisoned at Adana on their way to Mersina from Aintab, and only released on my strong and immediate protests to the Governor-General.

A British subject, a Protestant missionary, in this province was told in confidence about a fortnight ago by the Governor of his district, that an order had been received from Constantinople that all Protestant missionaries were to be expelled from this country. He said that the order did not apply to other foreigners, and that local Governments were to make out a case against them to the effect that they fail to respect and obey the laws of Turkey.

All these matters show the unsatisfactory state in which things now are, and they are only a few of those which really exist.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 140.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 334. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 3, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 318 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that I had a conversation on the 1st instant with the German Chancellor on the subject of your Lordship's proposals with regard to the steps to be taken to improve the administration of the Turkish Empire. I said that I had been somewhat surprised to learn that M. Chichkine had informed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh that he did not anticipate any objection on the part of the Russian Government. I remembered the different conversations I had had with Prince Lobanoff when I was at St. Petersburgh, and that his Excellency had invariably strongly opposed the idea of force being used to coerce the Sultan.

Prince Hohenlohe said that he was not aware that there had been any change in Russian policy with regard to Turkey. Russia did not desire, at all events as yet, the destruction of the Turkish Empire, but she might have become alive to the fact that it was impossible that the present state of things should continue. Unless some serious reforms were instituted there was the danger of the whole edifice crumbling to pieces, and it was therefore conceivable that Russia might seriously desire the introduction of such reforms as might prolong its existence for some time to come.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 141.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 343. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 7, 1896.

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday afternoon of mentioning to Baron von Marschall the substance of the observations which had been made at Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh with regard to your Lordship's proposal on the subject of Turkish reforms, which your Lordship did me the honour to communicate to me in your telegrams Nos. 184, 185, and 186 of the 5th instant.

Baron von Marschall said that he had been informed that the French and Russian Governments considered the financial question to be the most serious one, but he was not aware that the Russian Government had proposed that the finances should be administered by the Commission of the Public Debt. His Excellency remarked that the Commissioners of the Debt were merely the representatives of the bondholders, and he presumed therefore that the Russian proposal would involve the appointment of

a new International Commission on which the different Powers should be directly represented, as was the case in Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 142.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 340. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November* 5, 1896.

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI'S time having been completely taken up by his duties in connection with the marriage of the Duke of Orleans and the Archduchess Marie Dorothea, I called yesterday upon the Under-Secretary of State in order to inquire whether any further news had been received from St. Petersburgh in regard to your Lordship's proposals for the introduction of reforms in the Administration of Turkey.

Count Szecsen began by telling me that the telegram from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh to the effect that Russia would not agree to any measure of coercion, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 172 of the 3rd instant, merely recorded a general impression he had received from a conversation with M. Chichkine, who was, however, naturally unable to speak with any authority before the question had been laid before the Emperor. Count Goluchowski had been in some hopes, as I had the honour of reporting last week, that the policy of Russia in regard to Turkish reforms was undergoing a change from what it had been during Prince Lobanow's tenure of office, but he is now evidently beginning to fear that this is not the case, and there is but little chance of Russia ever agreeing to any measures of coercion, indeed, as Count Szecsen continued, "it is neither Russia's wish nor interest to see order restored in the Turkish Empire."

There was only one question, Count Szecsen went on to say, which it appeared to be seriously intended to take in hand, and that was the question of finance; financial circles in Paris were beginning to be nervous in regard to the situation, and were anxious to make a good bargain while there was still time, and any proposals made by the French Government in the sense demanded by Paris financiers would naturally have the support of the Russian Government.

For the rest he was afraid, as far as the question of general reforms was concerned, that the prospect was not less hopeless than it had hitherto been.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 143.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ce qui suit.

Il a été prouvé que des paquebots étrangers débarquent à Constantinople des Anarchistes Arméniens ainsi que de la dynamite et des engins explosibles. Ces Anarchistes, qui se tiennent cachés à bord, ne débarquent après leur arrivée que déguisés en matelots, ou autrement, pour se soustraire à la surveillance de la police.

D'autre part, les Anarchistes Arméniens qui se trouvent à l'étranger, abusant de l'hospitalité qui leur est accordée dans certains pays, répandent les bruits les plus subversifs et font publier dans les journaux des articles propres à entretenir dans l'esprit de leurs coreligionnaires établis en Turquie des idées révolutionnaires.

Cet état de choses paralyse les efforts déployés par les autorités Impériales pour prévenir de nouveaux désordres dans le pays.

La Sublime Porte aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, lequel ne cesse de témoigner sa sollicitude pour le maintien de l'ordre dans l'Empire, voudrait bien, dans ces circonstances, ne pas lui refuser l'appui dont elle a besoin pour la réalisation de ce but, et transmettre au Représentant Britannique à Constantinople des instructions formelles lui prescrivant d'inviter les autorités Consulaires à prêter aux autorités locales leur concours et les facilités nécessaires pour la surveillance exercée sur les bateaux venant de l'étranger.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne demande cette surveillance qu'à seul fin d'empêcher le débarquement des agitateurs Arméniens et des engins, armes, ou autres objets destructifs.

Pour ce qui est des publications faites par ces révolutionnaires dans les journaux et des menées auxquelles ils se livrent, le Gouvernement Impérial s'en remet aux sentiments d'amitié et de justice du Cabinet Britannique, pour l'adoption de telles mesures qui seraient jugées les plus propres à y mettre un terme. Le Gouvernement Impérial serait particulièrement reconnaissant au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique s'il voulait bien procéder à l'expulsion des dits agitateurs, laquelle lui semble être la mesure la plus efficace pour neutraliser leurs menées.

L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 7 Novembre, 1896.

No. 144.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 338.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 334, Confidential, of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of an article published in this morning's "Matin," enumerating the reforms which it is alleged the Turkish Ambassador, Munir Bey, has announced to M. Hanotaux as having been already agreed to by the Sultan, and which are attributed here to the impression made on His Majesty by M. Hanotaux' recent speech in the Chamber on the Armenian crisis.

In view of the fact that the same information is published in several other newspapers, I think it may be safely assumed that it is derived from an official source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Extract from the "Matin" of November 8, 1896.

ON se souvient qu'au cours de l'interpellation développée à la Chambre sur les affaires d'Arménie, M. Hanotaux, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, a déclaré que la France et la Russie s'étaient mises d'accord pour proposer une solution à la situation troublée de l'Empire Ottoman.

Faite à la Tribune Française, une telle déclaration devait produire un sérieux effet sur l'esprit du Sultan. Cela ne s'est pas fait attendre, et c'est un succès pour notre diplomatie.

Au lieu de répondre comme il l'a fait par un plaidoyer aux admonestations de l'année dernière de Lord Salisbury au banquet du Lord-Maire, admonestations qui doivent vraisemblablement être renouvelées dans deux jours, Sa Majesté Abdul-Hamid répond par des actes.

Ainsi qu'on va le voir, après cette pression de la France, il cède sur presque tous les points de l'action des six Ambassadeurs à Constantinople. Ce que n'avaient pu obtenir les demandes réitérées des diplomates, un discours prononcé à la Tribune Française le réalise.

En effet, au reçu du compte rendu de la séance de la Chambre des Députés, le Sultan a envoyé un de ses Secrétaires à M. Cambon, Ambassadeur de France à Constantinople, qui lui avait demandé audience.

Sur les instructions qu'il avait reçues de M. Hanotaux, M. Cambon a fait savoir qu'avant tout il était urgent que le Sultan prît un certain nombre de mesures propres à rassurer l'opinion et à donner à l'Europe une première satisfaction.

Munir Bey, Ambassadeur de Turquie à Paris, vient de faire connaître à M. Hanotaux que le Sultan avait immédiatement examiné et réglé les points suivants :—

1. Mise en liberté des personnes incarcérées contre lesquelles il n'existe aucune charge tant à Constantinople qu'en province. Les fonctionnaires qui ne se con-

formeraient pas sous deux jours à cet ordre seraient sévèrement punis. Le Ministre de la Justice a reçu des ordres spéciaux en ce qui concerne Constantinople.

2. La police recevra des ordres pour que les Arméniens paisibles ne soient pas poursuivis.

3. Convocation immédiate de l'Assemblée Arménienne pour procéder à l'élection du Patriarche;

4. Le Colonel Mazhar Bey, rendu responsable du meurtre du Père Salvator, est déféré à un Conseil de Guerre. Les ordres annoncés sont mis à exécution;

5. Le Vali de Diarbékir, Anis Pacha, particulièrement signalé dans les troubles d'Arménie, est révoqué;

6. Des instructions précises sont adressées aux Valis pour assurer la répression de toutes nouvelles violences;

7. Le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique devra supporter la charge de réparations à effectuer dans les couvents Catholiques d'Asie-Mineure qui ont souffert des derniers troubles;

8. Des ordres sont donnés pour la distribution de secours aux populations plus particulièrement éprouvées par les derniers événements;

Extension des Réformes.

9. M. Cambon a demandé en outre l'application rapide des réformes accordées l'année dernière aux six vilayets d'Arménie et leur extension aux autres provinces de l'Empire. Des ordres sont envoyés à cet effet. Le Décret relatif à l'extension des réformes va être publié.

On sait, en outre, que le Préfet de Police de Constantinople, Nazim Bey, qui avait été accusé de faiblesse lors des violences commises dans la capitale de l'Empire à la suite de l'invasion des locaux de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, vient d'être révoqué.

M. Hanotaux a remercié Munir Bey de cette communication et lui a fait savoir qu'il donnait à M. Cambon des instructions précises pour surveiller l'application de ces premières mesures.

Ce sont là des satisfactions importantes. Elles dénoncent la volonté du Sultan de tenir compte de la volonté de l'Europe. Reste maintenant, comme l'a dit M. Hanotaux, à surveiller avec vigilance la réalisation de ces promesses.

Dans tous les cas, grâce à l'heureux effet de l'intervention de la France, la diplomatie aura désormais plus de force pour agir et amener la fin de l'anarchie profonde dénoncée par ces satisfactions mêmes et qui dévore depuis longtemps l'Empire Ottoman.

No. 145.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 416.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 9, 1896, 9·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 430:

I have received telegrams from the Consuls at Salonica and at Aleppo, stating that general uneasiness is being caused by the levy from the Mussulmans of the poll tax for military preparations.

Mr. Blunt adds that subscriptions are accepted from the Christians as well as Moslems as a mark of loyalty on their part.

No. 146.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 11, 1896, 12·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 61 from Mr. Goschen, I have been told that the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has left Paris for his post at twenty-four hours' notice, on account of important business. His Excellency, however, does not expect that his stay in Russia will be of long duration.

No. 147.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 11, 1896.*

I WAS told to-day by M. Chichkine that he had read the report of your Lordship's speech in the Guildhall with the greatest pleasure, as there could be no longer any doubt but that England desired to act in concert with Russia and the other Powers at Constantinople.

His Excellency said, however, that, as regarded your Lordship's definite proposal, contained in your despatch No. 260 of the 20th ultimo, he thought a threat to employ coercive measures would weaken the Sultan's authority, and it was through him that the reforms must be ultimately carried out, and would be unnecessary directly His Majesty clearly understood that the Powers were united. However, they would have to consider what steps were next to be taken should the Sultan not listen to reason.

The Turkish Ambassador had just been told by his Excellency to telegraph to the Sultan that the era of paper reforms was past, that the Powers were all acting together, and that His Majesty must carry out their recommendations.

No. 148.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 448.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 11, 1896, 7·30 P.M.*

THE British colony here is scattered along the shores of the Bosphorus and on the Marmora, and experience shows that ships may be required at different places at the same time. The presence of the "stationnaires" is consequently more important than usual, as they would be able to be a protection for the British residents in case of further massacres taking place.

It therefore seems an unfavourable moment for sending away the "Imogene," which, according to a telegram I have received from the Admiral, is to leave for Malta to refit on the 17th November. If it is necessary to change the crew, the transfer could be effected somewhere near the Dardanelles.

The need for refitting is not apparent.

No. 149.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 449.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 11, 1896, 9·45 P.M.*

THE Consul-General at Salonica has telegraphed to say that according to trustworthy information which he has received the capitation tax also described as armament subscription is obligatory for Mussulmans. He has heard from the Vice-Consul at Monastir that while this measure is alarming the Christians it is much criticised by the Turkish population.

No. 150.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 450.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 11, 1896, 9·50 P.M.*

MR. MONAHAN telegraphs that he has heard from Saird that Shakir Pasha left there last Saturday after releasing over twenty Christian prisoners

---

No. 151.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 12, 1896.*

I HAD an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, at which his Excellency explained his views on the Eastern question to me at some length. His Excellency is of opinion that the first point on which the concert of Europe should insist, is that the reforms, of which I gave a list in the inclosure in my despatch No. 338 of the 8th instant, should be executed, and in the second place that further concessions should be secured from the Sultan, by bringing financial instead of material pressure to bear on His Imperial Majesty.

M. Hanotaux hopes that your Lordship will concur in his views, and in that case, he is ready to endeavour to secure the agreement of Russia to the proposed course of action, by exerting his influence at St. Petersburgh. In order to insure success in this, his Excellency suggests that a Russian Delegate, representing Russian bondholders rather than the Russian Government, should be admitted to the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt. If necessary, the Russian bondholders could be created for the purpose.

I am sending a full report of my interview by post to-night.

No. 152.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 452.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 12, 1896, 6·30 P.M.*

MONDAY next is fixed for the election of the Armenian Patriarch.

The new Ecclesiastical and Lay Councils were elected to-day at a meeting of the Armenian National Assembly.

No 153.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 12, 1896.*

HER Majesty's Government have learned with much regret and some disappointment from your telegram No. 62 of the 11th instant that the Russian Government decline to join in an undertaking that if a demand for any change in Turkish administration is made unanimously by the Powers, and is refused by the Sultan, the Powers will combine to enforce that demand.

An undertaking of this nature would prove to the Sultan the determination of the Powers to act together for the purpose of securing reforms. In its absence there will be nothing but general statements which have been made on previous occasions, and to which little value will be attached by His Majesty.

Unless such an undertaking is agreed to by the Powers it is doubtful whether there will be much utility in further combined representations on the part of the Ambassadors. In case nothing comes of such representations, the effect on the Moslem population is unfortunate, as they receive the impression that the Christian Powers are being defied by the Sultan. His Majesty's authority does not appear to be questioned, and there is little danger of its being weakened by any such contingent undertaking on the part of the Powers.

But what requires very much strengthening is the Sultan's belief in the intention of the Powers to act together in securing reforms.

No. 154.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 344. Very Confidential.)
Paris, November 11, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Hanotaux spoke to me at considerable length this afternoon on the present phase of the Turkish question.

I commenced our conversation by congratulating his Excellency on the impression which his speech in the French Chamber had produced at Constantinople.

M. Hanotaux said that, on leaving the Chamber, he had telegraphed the result of the interpellation on the Armenian question to M. Cambon, with an instruction to communicate it to the Sultan, and to warn His Majesty that any renewal of the Armenian massacres would create so great an impression on public opinion in France, that he would not answer for the consequences.

Before M. Cambon, however, had time to carry out this instruction, his Excellency received a visit from one of the Sultan's Aides-de-camp, who stated that His Majesty was willing at once to carry out such reforms as were considered imperatively necessary by the French Government.

(M. Hanotaux has since learnt that his speech was telegraphed *in extenso*, by the Sultan's order, to the Palace by Munir Bey, the Ottoman Ambassador.)

M. Cambon was somewhat taken aback by this sudden step on the Sultan's part, but he made a list (a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 338 of the 8th instant), and said that if these reforms were really enforced, it would, at any rate, be a step in the right direction.

Two days subsequently, Munir Bey called at the Quai d'Orsay and announced His Majesty's intention of accepting the list *en bloc*; those which could be enforced by a stroke of the pen would be applied immediately (M. Hanotaux mentioned the election of a new Patriarch, "a matter to which, it seems, the Armenians attach great importance," and the release of prisoners, as cases in point); for others, which might require some preliminary arrangements, a slight delay might be necessary; but the Ambassador was authorized to promise that everything should be done to carry out the programme as quickly as possible.

M. Hanotaux told Munir Bey that as this was an official communication from the Sultan himself, he should take care it was published at once in the French press, hoping thereby to prevent the Sultan from drawing back, or from eating his own words.

I said I felt sure that your Lordship would have learnt with satisfaction the result which the practically unanimous condemnation of the Armenian atrocities by the French Chamber had produced at Constantinople—a pronouncement which, as far as I knew, was the first made by this country on the question.

M. Hanotaux replied that he was himself more than surprised at the effect which the debate had evidently made on the Sultan; he had endeavoured to speak clearly, and to leave no loop-hole for any possible misunderstanding as to the point of view of the French Government; but he had not ventured to hope that the words spoken from the French Tribune would have effected that which months of discussion between the Ambassadors and the Porte had failed to bring about; he believed that at last the Sultan was frightened; and in this connection he demurred at certain criticisms which had already been made as to the realization of the promised reforms.

Probably the Sultan, realizing at last that his previous policy had been one long mistake, wished to make it appear that the reforms were offered *proprio motu*, instead of in obedience to the demands of Europe.

M. Hanotaux told me he had read your Lordship's speech at the Guildhall banquet with great interest, and he was very grateful for the friendly reference which your Lordship had made on this occasion to his speech in the Chamber. He had, indeed, this morning telegraphed to the French Chargé d'Affaires in London to convey his personal thanks to your Lordship.

As to the course which should be pursued by the European concert, his Excellency went on to explain that, in his opinion, the Ambassadors should at once meet and insist on the strict and immediate carrying out of the reforms promised in the Sultan's message; it would be at least a good beginning, and would secure a measure of peace and order throughout the Empire.

I here asked what course his Excellency would propose should be followed, in case it should again happen, as has so often been the case on previous occasions, that these promises should turn out to be mere empty words.

"Ah!" said his Excellency, "there you come to the point of Lord Salisbury's despatch of the 20th ultimo; you mean how is the European concert, if needs be, to coerce the Sultan?

"Let us examine first the question of material coercion. I tell you frankly that, under the existing circumstances, I am not in favour of a naval demonstration. A naval demonstration means one of two things: either a concentration of ships in the Ægean, and a waving of flags off Salonica or Smyrna or some other port, which would not have the slightest effect, or the forcing of the Dardanelles. The latter step might perhaps have plausibly been defended months ago, in the interest of the European Colonies on the Bosphorus; but it would be an illogical step to take now that the Sultan has undertaken to carry through the chief part of the demands put forward by Europe."

Instead of a policy of material coercion, M. Hanotaux said that he was in favour of one of financial pressure exercised firmly and collectively by Europe. The Sultan was in need of funds; he could not get on without financial help; and once he realized that this was unattainable, without meeting the views of the Powers, M. Hanotaux considers that he will be forced to yield.

In reply to my inquiry whether I might take his Excellency's remarks as an answer to your Lordship's Circular despatch of the 20th ultimo, M. Hanotaux replied that he was not now making any definite proposal; it was perhaps too early to do so; but he would be glad if I would report what he had said privately and confidentially to your Lordship. He had shown me in all honesty "le vrai fond de son sac;" if his suggestions met with your Lordship's approval, he would embody them in a more official form, and as an answer to your Lordship's despatch above referred to; but, before doing so, he would be glad to have the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on what he assured me more than once was merely his own personal idea, arrived at after two weeks' serious consideration of the matter.

After assuring his Excellency that I would not fail to report fully to your Lordship what he had said, I told him that I had heard a rumour to the effect that it was proposed to appoint a Russian Delegate to the Council of the Ottoman Debt; could he tell me how this matter stood?

M. Hanotaux replied that he thought it but right that Russia should have a voice with the other Powers on the Council; he himself should prefer that the Russian Delegate, if appointed, should represent Russian bondholders, who, if they did not already exist, could easily be created; perhaps later on all the Delegates could be appointed as representing their respective Governments, but, for the moment, he believed the "existing machinery" sufficient for the purpose; possibly, it might be necessary to ask for more, in order to obtain the minimum of control necessary; to threaten, in short, some sort of joint European dominium; but he thought that an arrangement whereby the Powers could obtain the cession of fresh revenues, to be confided to the administration of the existing Council, on which Russia should be represented, would best meet the exigencies of the situation. It would remain to be seen whether a new loan would then be necessary, or whether the crisis could be met by a conversion of the present debt—a step which would at once relieve the present financial embarrassment of the Ottoman Treasury.

During the course of our conversation M. Hanotaux alluded more than once to the absolute necessity of maintaining the European concert; and, in this connection, he incidentally expressed his regret that an arrangement, which he hoped would have been accepted as to the Egyptian Caisse lawsuit, had at the last moment fallen through.

In reply to my inquiry as to what he was referring to, his Excellency seemed unwilling to enter into an explanation, merely adding that the negotiations in question were being carried on at Cairo; but I gathered that he was alluding to the change in the date fixed by the Court of Appeal for the hearing of the Caisse lawsuit. "I only mention this quite incidentally," said M. Hanotaux, "because I think it undesirable that the Porte should think that there is not an entire agreement between all the Powers as to all that touches the Turkish Empire."

On rising to take my leave, his Excellency again expressed his wish that I should report what he had said to your Lordship, "without laying undue stress on the remarks as to a naval demonstration, which I have let drop in the course of our conversation." Your Lordship would then have an opportunity of discussing the

whole subject with Sir Edmund Monson before his Excellency's departure from London, and he trusted that he should learn from the Ambassador that some such scheme as he had sketched out would meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 155.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 454. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 13, 1896, 650 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 213.

Some Memoranda addressed by M. Berger, French Commissioner of the Public Debt, to M. Hanotaux have been communicated to me very confidentially by Sir V. Caillard. They contain a proposal to liberate sufficient revenue for raising a Guaranteed Loan of 12,000,000*l.*, by converting into a Consolidated 3 per Cent. Loan, guaranteed either by all the Powers, or else by Russia and France alone, the six last loans, starting from the Customs Loan of 1886. M. Berger thinks that security sufficient to enable the Governments to give their guarantee would be obtained if the administration of the revenues thus liberated, together with that of certain others, were handed over to the Public Debt as at present constituted, only with the addition of a Russian Delegate.

Further suggestions are made to the effect that the payment of the Sultan's Civil List (which would be cut down to a moderate sum), of the army, and of public functionnaries, should be intrusted to the Council of the Debt, which would thus be charged with the administration of most of the principal remaining revenues of the Empire, in order to control the expenses of the Civil List.

M. Berger does not contemplate an official financial control, as in Egypt. He counts on the energetic desire of Europe, and especially of Russia, to obtain the consent of the Sultan.

It seems likely that these suggestions formed the base of M. Hanotaux' proposal of financial pressure. Unless the Powers are prepared to enforce this scheme in the manner mentioned in the latter part of your Lordship's despatch of the 20th October last, there would seem to be very little likelihood of the Sultan being induced to accept such an arrangement in a binding form.

No. 156.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 14, 1896.*

THE French Minister conveyed to me yesterday a request from M. Hanotaux that instructions might be sent to your Excellency to support the efforts which are being made by the French Ambassador at Constantinople to obtain the practical and complete execution of the measures of relief and reform as to which the Sultan recently gave assurances to M. Cambon.

The French Minister was informed that the previous instructions sent to your Excellency would induce you to act in the sense desired by M. Hanotaux, but that I should have pleasure in repeating them by telegraph to your Excellency.

No. 157.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 347.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 875 of the 27th ultimo relative to the state of the Hedjaz.

I approve the terms of the *note verbale* which you addressed to the Porte on the subject on the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 158.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Gosselin.

(No. 465.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1896.

THE French Minister called at the Foreign Office yesterday, and said that M. Hanotaux had been informed by the Turkish Ambassador in Paris that the Sultan was taking immediate steps to execute the various measures of relief and reform which he had promised to M. Cambon.

Out of 1,900 persons detained in prison, 1,800 had been released.

The election of the Armenian Patriarch would be proceeded with at once.

Orders had been given for rebuilding the mission-houses which had been destroyed.

The authorities had received instructions to prosecute those guilty of disorders, and to endeavour to restore and maintain tranquillity.

The extension to the other provinces of the Empire of the reforms granted to the Armenian vilayets had been decreed.

M. Hanotaux had telegraphed to M. Cambon to do all in his power to secure the practical execution of the Sultan's promises, and his Excellency would be glad if instructions in the same sense could be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

The French Minister was informed that the previous instructions sent to Sir P. Currie would induce him to act in the sense desired by M. Hanotaux, but that I should have pleasure in repeating them.

I have telegraphed accordingly to Sir P. Currie to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 159.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 457. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 15, 1896, 11·30 A.M.

M. CAMBON never even mentioned the promises of the Sultan referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 215 till yesterday, when he complained that they were not being carried out.

I will support his representations, and would have done so before if he had asked me.

No. 160.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 461.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 15, 1896, 11·45 A.M.

DISARMING of Nestorians: Your Lordship's despatch No. 334 of the 3rd November. Major Williams, who heard on the 27th October from Mr. Brown, states that the report is untrue.

No. 161.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 462.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 15, 1896, *noon.*

ENIS PASHA, whom the French Embassy has at last succeeded in getting dismissed from the post of Vali of Diarbekir, has now been named member of a Commission for devising the best means for levying taxes in Anatolia.

No. 162.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 107.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 15, 1896.

THE Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh has, I am told, telegraphed to his Government, stating that the Russian Minister of Finance is opposed to the proposals put forward by M. Hanotaux for the reorganization of the financial administration of Turkey.

The opinion here is, that it is highly improbable that the Sultan would submit to the execution of any such proposition unless threats of coercion were used in the event of refusal.

No. 163.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 315. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 13, 1896.

IN conversation with Baron von Marschall this morning, I referred to the views held by M. Hanotaux on the Eastern question, which your Lordship did me the honour to communicate to me by your telegram No. 189 of this day's date. Baron von Marschall said that he had already been informed of M. Hanotaux' views on the subject of bringing financial rather than material pressure to bear upon the Sultan, and that he did not see any objection to a Russian Delegate being admitted to the Council of the Public Debt, although he thought it possible that the laws instituting the Council would require modification. But this proposal was entirely distinct from that of the Russian Government to intrust the whole financial administration of the Turkish Empire to the Council. His Excellency repeated to me what he had said on a previous occasion, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 348 of the 7th instant, that if this idea were entertained, it would be necessary to completely change the composition of the Council, and that the different Governments should appoint the Delegates, who at present merely represented the bondholders, and received their instructions from the bankers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 164.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 350. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, November* 13, 1896.

ON reading through the draft of my despatch No. 344, Very Confidential, of the 11th instant, reporting my conversation with M. Hanotaux that afternoon, I see that I omitted to place on record an observation which his Excellency made with regard to your Lordship's speech at the Guildhall banquet on the 9th instant.

After assuring me of the interest with which he had read the speech, and expressing (as I had the honour to report in my despatch above referred to) his thanks

for your Lordship's kindly reference to himself, his Excellency said that he was delighted that your Lordship had laid so much stress on the necessity of maintaining the European concert, and had spoken so clearly against the imprudence of isolated action in Turkey on the part of Her Majesty's Government. These declarations would necessarily have an excellent effect on public opinion in Europe.

There was, indeed, if he might be permitted to say so, one point which struck him on reading your Lordship's speech, and that was the "extreme moderation" of the language employed with regard to the recent conduct of the Turkish Government.

I could not help expressing my surprise at his Excellency's remark, which, contrary to the charge so persistently brought against Her Majesty's Government for many months past, seemed to imply that your Lordship had been unduly lenient towards the Sultan and his works.

M. Hanotaux expressed his hope that I had not misunderstood the drift of his remark; he was fully aware that your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government reprobated the cruelties of which the Turkish Empire had been the scene, but he had in his eye the sterner language used by your Lordship at the Guildhall banquet last year, and all that he meant to imply was that the relatively moderate tone adopted this year might lead the Sultan to think that England was no longer so impressed as formerly with the enormities which have disgraced the Ottoman Administration during the last eighteen months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 165.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 463.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 16, 1896, 11·40 A.M.*

ON Saturday Izzet Bey read over to Mr. Block the instructions which the authorities had received with regard to the maintenance of order, together with a list of reforms, all of which, it is alleged, have been carried out, with the exception of the Rural Guards, the Juges de Paix, and Councils of the nahiés.

This document, which contradicts the information contained in our Consular reports, and had clearly been compiled with the object of influencing public opinion, states that all prisoners will be tried without delay, and that orders have been given to that effect. It appears to be intended for eventual publication, and lays at the door of the Armenians, the late disorders, the delay in carrying out the reforms, and, in fact, all the evils of the present state of things. Izzet Bey added that the closing of the Extraordinary Tribunal would take place to-day, that the Court of Cassation would revise all the sentences passed by the Tribunal, and that the ordinary Tribunals would judge all those implicated in the recent riots who had not yet been tried.

No. 166.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 464. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 16, 1896, 9·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 457 of 15th November.

At my request M. Cambon has furnished me with a list of promises made to him by the Sultan, and I have to-day sent Mr. Block to the Porte to press for their complete execution.

With the exception of the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir, the closing of the Extraordinary Tribunal, the restoration of the Catholic religious establishments, and the trial of the murderer of the Italian priest Salvatore, there is nothing in the list which has not already been promised repeatedly by the Sultan to this Embassy.

The French Ambassador's language makes me fear that France intends to abstain from any serious joint action, and to represent these State assurances as a new and adequate concession entitling the Turkish Government to favourable treatment.

He suggested that I should tell the Turkish Government that the future attitude of the Powers would greatly depend on the manner in which the promises made to him were executed.

No. 167.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 16, 1896.*

I HAVE heard on reliable authority that M. de Witte is strongly opposed to the Franco-Russian Public Debt proposal, that he is working the press against it, and that he objects, under any conditions, to the appointment of a Russian Delegate. On the other hand, the Russian Representatives have been instructed by M. Chichkine, who supports the proposal, to submit it to the Governments to which they are accredited. M. de Nélidoff, I believe, takes the same view as M. de Witte.

No. 168.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 17, 1896, 1·5 P.M.*

THE St. Petersburgh correspondent of one of the chief financial institutions in Paris has, I am informed, allowed the Directors of the establishment to understand that the Russian Government would wish to be the sole guarantors of any new Turkish loan that may be issued. As yet no conditions have been specified.

No. 169.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 465.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1896, 10·50 A.M.*

THE following telegram was received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput yesterday:—

"A telegram has been sent by the Vali to the Sublime Porte asking that he may be authorized, in accordance with the scheme of reforms, to nominate eighty-two tax collectors to replace the zaptiehs."

No. 170.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 466 A.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1896, 7·10 P.M.*

MR. MONAHAN telegraphed to-day from Bitlis as follows:—

"A Commission has been sent to see to the election of a Mudir near Bitlis, under reform scheme, and, according to the Vali, arrangements are being made, but not yet completed, for such elections throughout the Vilayet. He also says that arrangements are complete for Christian police and gendarmerie, the only difficulty being that Armenians do not present themselves to be enrolled in the latter; and that henceforth neither gendarmes nor police will be employed in tax collecting."

No. 171.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 18, 1896.*

AT an interview I had with M. Hanotaux this afternoon, his Excellency expressed his thanks for the support which had been rendered by Sir Philip Currie to M. Cambon, and told me that he had on his table a copy of the Iradé, by which the Extraordinary

Tribunal was ordered to be closed, adding that to-morrow he hoped to hear that its existence had ceased.

There remained only sixty Armenians in prison at the present moment.

His Excellency is waiting to hear what Europe has to say with regard to the financial scheme, and trusts that not a penny will be advanced to the Sultan by any one without adequate counter-concessions being received.

I inquired what was thought of his scheme by the Russian Government, and his Excellency replied that he hoped that some measure of financial reform would be agreed to by them on the condition that no sort of *condominium* was set up at Constantinople. M. Hanotaux seemed to speak in a much less sanguine tone than he did at the interview I had with him on the 12th instant.

No. 172.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's proposal of the 20th October, M. Chichkine, who saw the Emperor yesterday, told me to-day that His Majesty was not willing to agree to any undertaking which implied measures of coercion against the Sultan. His Excellency hoped, however, that the joint influence of the Powers would lead to an improvement in the situation.

No. 173.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 63 of the 16th instant, I was informed by M. Chichkine this afternoon that the Russian Government could not accept the French proposal respecting the Ottoman Public Debt, as there were so many objections in the way.

No. 174.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 108. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 18, 1896.*

I LEARN from Count Goluchowski that he has not, as yet, received any communication from the Russian Government respecting the proposed financial reorganization in Turkey, but that from what he has heard of the French scheme he foresees considerable difficulty in regard to its execution. He does not think, moreover, that the Sultan will submit to any financial pressure on the part of the Powers.

As regards the question of guaranteeing a future Turkish loan, his Excellency doubts whether all the Powers would agree to such a course. He himself is but little inclined to favour such an idea, and thinks that the guarantee by one or two Powers might have very serious consequences.

Count Goluchowski is aware of the objection to the French proposal raised by M. Nélidow and M. de Witte, and he believes that anything tending to bring about a real amelioration of the situation in Turkey will be opposed by Russia. The activity displayed in this question by M. Hanotaux may, his Excellency thinks, be in a great measure ascribed to the pressure which the French financiers are bringing to bear upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 175.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, reporting on the state of insecurity in the Dersim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Kharput, October 18, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a few weeks ago six Armenian peasants who were travelling in the Dersim for trading purposes, were set upon and murdered, near the village of Hakiz, by certain Mussulman villagers of the Kizil-Kilissé district. The names of these Armenians, three of whom leave widows and children, were Gaspar Khalafian, Ohannes Khalafian, Marsoub Khalafian, Bedros Khalafian, Kevork Khalafian, and Bedros Emonian.

I at once brought the matter to the notice of the Vali, who thereupon sent orders to the Kaïmakam of Kizil-Kilissé to make the necessary investigation, and, if possible, arrest the criminals. I fear, however, that there is but little probability of the real murderers being punished, or even arrested.

The Turkish village of Kermetzig, in the Caza of Chemish-Gesek, was attacked some two months ago by a band of Kizil-Bash Kurds, who drove off all the villagers' cattle. At about the same date the Christian village of Pazupun, which had been totally destroyed with the exception of one large stable, during the disturbances last winter, was also visited by a number of Kurds, who broke into the stable and carried off what cattle and bedding they found therein.

It would be well, I think, could the Kaïmakam recently appointed to Chemish-Gesek, be dispatched to his post with as little delay as possible. The Acting Kaïmakam seems to be both prejudiced and corrupt. Christians and Turks alike, however, unite in their praise of the officer in command at that town, Major Riza Bey, and of Lieutenant Saïd Effendi, who are doing their duty well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 176.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout giving an account of his recent tour in the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Beyrout, October 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I made some short tours in the Lebanon during the summer of this year, visiting the districts of El Meten and Shouf.

I would have extended them to the more remote parts of North Lebanon if Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, who is always left in charge of the Consulate-General on such occasions, had not been absent.

His Excellency Naoum Pasha happened to be away when I was in the Shouf, but I met the leading functionaries of the Government, the Christian and Druse Notables, and visited the principal villages of the district.

When a Consul-General of one of the Signatory Powers enters the Shouf it is usually on an official visit to the Governor-General at Beit Eddin; an escort is sent to meet him, and orders are given for his reception during the journey by officials and inhabitants of the Mudirats.

During his stay at the Seraï he exchanges visits with the high functionaries and Bishops, and, in the case of the British Consul-General, a visit is also paid to the Chief of the Druses at Mochtara.

Having received invitations from both Christian and Druse Notables in the Shouf, and being able to dispense with the services of an interpreter, I decided, in the absence of the Governor-General, to forego the official ceremonies, and to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to become acquainted with the Lebanese in their homes and to collect information regarding the Administration, which would never be imparted in a formal interview.

At Deir-el-Kamr, now regarded as the capital of the Lebanon, I was the guest of a Greek Catholic Notable, who was saved from massacre when a child by Saïd Bey Jumblad, in the Castle of Mochtara, together with many other Christians, during the sad events of 1860.

The gratitude he thus owes to the Druses has had a good influence amongst his community, and helped to establish the peaceful relations now existing with their Druse neighbours at Baaklin.

The Mudir of Deir-el-Kamr, Emir Khalil Shehab, grandson of the celebrated Emir Beshir, on hearing of my arrival, called with other Notables and begged me to pay them a visit.

I was struck by the spontaneous welcome of the inhabitants who are nearly all Maronites, and by the language of their addresses, profuse in admiration of the English, and in expressions of gratitude for the interest taken by the British Government in the prosperity and happiness of Christians of all denominations in the Levant.

I also passed a day at the house of the first Maronite landed proprietor in the Shouf, whose grandfather had been French Consular Agent in the Lebanon, before the institution of the present system of government. An unusually large crowd was assembled to greet me, and everything possible was done to demonstrate their appreciation of the visit.

The discourses held on this occasion were similar to those at Deir-el-Kamr, and I have since met several Maronites of good standing in the Lebanon, all of whom have confided to me that their co-religionists had either remained, or been kept, in ignorance of England's greatness and justice, but since the occupation of Egypt, where thousands of Lebanese had emigrated, and since recent events in the Levant, their minds had been opened and the truth revealed to them. They also assured me that all enlightened Christians in Syria were now imbued with the same feelings of admiration for the British nation.

On my way from Deir-el-Kamr to Mochtara I passed by Baaklin to return the call of the Sheikhel-Akkal or Spiritual Head of the Druses, and took that opportunity of investigating and settling a case of conversion of a Druse in the Medical Mission of Miss Wordsworth Smith, which had caused considerable excitement in the village. The ladies had already appealed for protection, and Emir Mustapha, the Kaïmakam, with whom I had lunched on the previous day, had asked me to persuade them to send the convert, Dr. Ali Alammuddin, down to Beyrout, otherwise he would not be able to answer for their safety.

I happened to be well acquainted with Dr. Ali's father and his father-in-law, both prominent men in the Shouf, and having reasons for suspecting that feudal animosities had been roused in the village by the incident, and that they had more to do with the excitement than fanaticism, I persuaded them privately to leave the matter entirely in my hands.

I informed the missionaries that they had acted most unwisely at a time when the Government was anxious to preserve tranquillity among the Druses, and told them I thought they might have performed the ceremony of baptism quietly in another part of the country, and avoided the sent of the Government and of the Spiritual Head of the Druses. I then interviewed Dr. and Mrs. Ali Alammuddin, and having ascertained from the latter that she wished to remain with her husband I reminded Dr. Ali that he was an

Ottoman subject and advised him to address a petition to the Kaïmakam, invoking the Imperial Firmans relating to religious liberty in the Empire, and stating that as his presence at Baaklin was said to be a source of danger for the public peace, he was willing to leave, under protection, for Beyrout with his wife and children.

According to Druse laws and usages change of religion dissolves marriage. The doctor's wife had therefore been summoned home by her parents, and it was rumoured that they intended marrying her to her brother-in-law.

This alarmed Mrs. Alammuddin, who, by my advice, added a petition in her own name begging to be allowed to accompany her husband to Beyrout.

I sent a verbal message to the Kaïmakam warning him to bring the affair to a speedy and peaceful conclusion.

He called at the Mission, and asked for an interview with Mrs. Alammuddin, and being satisfied that she was determined to follow her husband, he gave the necessary authority.

On the following morning the Alammuddins and their children were removed from the Mission under a strong escort of gendarmes, and were met at the boundaries of the vilayet by a Consular cavass. The family left shortly after for England.

Both Baaklin and Mochtara are situated in the Druse Mudirat of Shouf, which forms part of the Kaïmakam's district bearing the same name, and where nearly all the inhabitants are adherents of the Jumblads.

The Mudir's post is always given to a member of that family, but is now vacant, owing to the death of Nejjib Bey, brother of Nessib Bey Jumblad.

The appointment of a new Mudir has been delayed by the interference of the Kaïmakam, Emir Mustapha Arslan, who, fearing the power of the Jumblads, is opposing the selection of the popular candidate Selim Bey.

While I was at Mochtara Druses came up from all parts of the country, and, in response to their invitations, I rode round the Mudirat, and was received everywhere with acclamations by the villagers.

The Jumblad party in the Lebanon has suffered continuously from the effects of the extraordinary power exercised by Emir Mustapha over the mind of Naoum Pasha, and they live in dread of the unjust use he may still make of it.

The Emir is an able and determined officer, who thoroughly understands the Druses, but where the Jumblads are concerned, his enmity and spite have no bounds.

Naoum Pasha is well aware of the Kaïmakam's failings in this respect, but he is either unwilling or unable to correct them.

Wherever I went among the Druses they were full of inquiries as to affairs in the Hauran, and I saw several who had visited that country during the rising, and who were in a position to relate interesting accounts of their experiences.

I found a firm belief prevalent among the people that the English would not look on with indifference and allow the Turks either to drive their valiant co-religionists into the desert, or force them by constant warfare to submit to a tyrannical rule.

They also assured me that the peaceful attitude of the Lebanon was mainly attributable to their confidence in England, and the interest her Government had always taken in the welfare of the Druses.

Wherever I travelled, both in the Meten and the Shouf, the same sentiments prevailed.

On expressing my hopes that the difficulties in the Hauran would be soon peacefully terminated, and my desire that the Lebanese should set a good example to their Hauran brethren, by remaining tranquil, and thus showing their loyalty to the Government, they generally replied that the Lebanese placed themselves under my guidance in the matter, and would respect my wishes.

The Christians in the Lebanon, and in all other districts inhabited by Druses, have benefited by the late rising in the Hauran, which has caused an estrangement and mistrust between Druses and Mussulmans.

In those parts of the Lebanon where Druses are in the majority, I found them living in harmony with the Christians, and, as a rule, I was received by the Druse Sheikhs and the Christian priests in a body.

On such occasions I always urged them to keep united, and warned the Druses that they would forfeit the good offices of the British Consulate-General if they failed in good-will towards their Christian neighbours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 177.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 908.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora reporting the conversion of an Armenian Protestant family to Islam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Angora, October 29, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency a recent case of conversion from Christianity to Mahommedanism which, owing to its peculiar circumstances, may be said to be at present the talk of the town. An Armenian Protestant named Mardiros Vartanian, who for fourteen years was preacher to the Protestant community here, went to the Government House on the 26th instant accompanied by his two daughters, dressed and veiled in the Turkish fashion, and informed the Acting Vali, General Ali Riza Pasha, that he wished to be converted to Islam together with his mother and two daughters. As the interview took place without the presence of witnesses I have no information as to what the Pasha said to Vartanian, but in any case the latter seems to have been told that his case would be considered, the religious head of his community consulted, and he himself summoned to appear again before the Pasha in a few days' time. Thereupon he left the konak with his daughters, a considerable crowd having collected outside to witness their departure.

This man Vartanian, though he has never been properly ordained, was practically, as stated above, the pastor of the Protestant Armenian community here for a period of fourteen years, being finally dismissed in 1890, on the ground of incompetence, by the American Missionaries of Cæsarea. He persisted, however, in considering himself deputy-pastor for another two years although he received no salary during that period, whereas he had previously been paid at the rate of £ T. 66 per annum.

Vartanian has been engaged in a lawsuit with the Protestant community here and the American Missionaries of Cæsarea for some time past, a decision having only recently been given against him in the local Court of First Instance. He lays claim to the ownership of a house part of which forms the Protestant chapel, and in the upper part of which he has been living for the last six years in spite of frequent attempts to eject him. The house was bought some eight years ago for £ T. 330, two-thirds of which sum were contributed by the Cæsarea missionaries, and the remaining third by the local Protestant community. Of this latter sum (£ T. 110), however, it is acknowledged that Vartanian advanced £ T. 38½, and it is partly for this reason, partly because the deed of sale was made out in his name as the then religious head of the Protestant community, and partly because he has paid the house-tax during the whole time of his occupation, that he now lays claim to the proprietorship of the house itself. I believe he has also put in a claim for the payment of the arrears of salary due to him during the two years subsequent to his dismissal by the American missionaries. The Protestant community here has offered him £ T. 100 in full satisfaction of all demands, which, considering that he has no legal claim beyond his original contribution (£ T. 38½) and the amount of the house-tax paid during six years—say £ T. 10—may be considered very generous treatment of him on their part. This offer, however, he refuses with scorn, and declares it to be his intention to carry his case to the Court of Cassation supposing the decision of the Court of Appeal here to be as unfavourable to him as that emanating from the Court of First Instance has already been.

I must apologize to your Excellency for the superabundance of detail which, of course, is but of the smallest interest *per se*, but all of which tends to show that Vartanian in abandoning his religion for that of Islam has manifestly been actuated by personal considerations of the most sordid description. This he denies, but there can be no doubt in any impartial mind that he hopes that the fact of his conversion will turn the scale in his favour in the Court of Appeal, which so far has not yet decided on the case, and that, even supposing their judgment should be adverse, he may yet succeed in having it quashed at Constantinople.

Vartanian's mother, who is an old woman of 78, appears to be completely under her son's control, while the two daughters, the elder of whom is 18 or 19 and the younger 13, do not, I am informed, show any marked repugnance for the religion which at their father's bidding they are about to embrace. In the case of the elder, who, I am told, is a relatively well-educated girl of great personal attractions, this may partly be explained by the fact that she is offered marriage by the son of a certain Major Hafiz Agha, who is well-to-do, and is considered a good match. The second girl is almost too young to realize the importance of the step which she is about to take. They have both informed the Protestant community in the person of its delegate, a certain Dr. Tabibian, that if the community would undertake to send them to and keep them at Paris, where their only brother is now residing, they would remain faithful to their religion, but not otherwise. Their father, as might be expected, appears to have encouraged them in making this extraordinary, not to say, outrageous, proposal. It is, of course, partly explained by the fact that Dr. Tabibian had been authorized to inform them that the community would undertake to send them to and support them for a time at Broussa, or even perhaps at Constantinople, in order to keep them out of the reach of their father's pernicious influence.

As for Vartanian himself, who is a man of no principle, it matters little or nothing, except for the matter of example, whether he changes his religion or not, but it does seem regrettable that these two young girls should be carried along in the wake of his infamy.

I must again apologize to your Excellency for the length of this despatch, my excuse being the very great interest the matter has excited among all classes of the population of Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 178.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 909.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Adana reporting on the removal of the Governor of Hadjin and the choice of his successor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Adana, October 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Ismail Bey, Kaïmakam of Hadjin, left a few days ago for Aintab, and I have considered it necessary to report the circumstance to your Excellency by telegram, as the appointment of his successor is a matter of great importance in the present unsatisfactory state of the district. I am not at all satisfied, from the reports which reach me, that the Government is endeavouring to improve the Armenian situation.

It is a matter for grave reflection whether the present is an opportune moment for the appointment of a Christian Kaïmakam. With the want of order which exists in the general Government administration such a change might be the signal for murder and depredations by Moslems from the villages around, while the specially selected Christian

Governor would probably remain a puppet in the hands of his equally selected Moslem Mouavin.

If a good Moslem official were appointed, it would probably be the best selection under the present condition of Hadjin district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 179.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 913.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 5, 1896.

AN article appeared in the "Ikdam" of the 3rd instant, alluding, after the usual encomium on the efforts made by the Sultan and the Ottoman Government for the maintenance of order, to rumours current as to the probability of a fresh revolutionary demonstration on the part of the Armenians. It is declared that any further outbreak is impossible in view of the stringent police measures now taken.

The journal goes on to state that, as various members of the police force have been found not to possess the qualifications necessary for their respective employments, the Inspector of Police, Benin Effendi, has now been instructed to institute a full inquiry into the condition of the force, under the supervision of the Minister of the Interior. All incompetent men will be discharged, and only those will be retained who are proved to be experienced and courageous, able, if possible, to read and write, and who, as a general rule, have been sergeants in the army. These will be at once reappointed, and the utmost care will be taken to pay them regularly, and to reward the more deserving among them with orders, medals, &c.

This is a specimen of the orders constantly published, which, though excellent in themselves, are allowed to remain a dead letter. It may, however, be of more importance than usual, as to-day's papers announce that Nazim Pasha, Minister of Police, has been dismissed, and Shefik Bey, President of the Court of Cassation, and formerly President of the Sasun Commission, been appointed in his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 180.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 914.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 5, 1896.

THE following official notification appeared in the "Ikdam" of yesterday's date with regard to the levy of a forced loan on the Mohammedan population of this Empire for military requirements, reported in my despatch No. 882, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo:—

"An Imperial Iradé has been issued to the effect that Commissions are to be formed of Notables in vilayets, sandjaks, and cazas, for the purpose of appealing for contributions from patriotic inhabitants, in order that the sacrifices undertaken by the Government for the perfection of the supply of arms, clothes, and other military stores may be supplemented in such a manner as to make them proportionate to the actual necessities, and that tickets are to be distributed and the proceeds remitted regularly to Constantinople. A general Commission, under the presidency of Mahmoud Jellaled-din Pasha, and comprising members of the respective Departments, has been formed to superintend the custody and proper expenditure of the contributions thus raised. All patriots will assuredly approve of this contribution. No compulsion will be exercised; the funds will be exclusively employed for supplying the wants of the Redifs, and all who contribute will be doing a good work. The tickets will be of the value of 5, 10, 30, 50, and 100 piastres; all who give more will be worthy of approbation, and

contributors of 2,000 piastres and upwards will receive a medal with their name engraved on it. Two thousand guns of modern system have already been purchased by the Sultan's orders and stored at the arsenal, and 10,000 more are to be purchased, as well as other stores, by His Majesty's benevolence."

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Mr. Block a few days ago that the scheme had undergone various modifications, and that many words which existed in the original text had been omitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 181.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 915.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 5, 1896.

I HAVE repeatedly called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the fact, as reported by Mr. Fontana, that taxes continue to be levied from Armenians inhabiting ruined villages in the district of Kharput, and that zaptiehs are employed to levy them, notwithstanding the orders sent by the Palace for the execution of the Article of the reforms relating to the collection of taxes.

His Highness, who expressed surprise at the state of affairs reported by Mr. Fontana, informed Mr. Block that special tax-gatherers had been appointed, and in his presence dispatched a telegram to the Vali, instructing him to take measures to prevent the recurrence of such cases in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 182.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 916.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 7, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Monahan, reporting on a conversation which he had with Shakir Pasha, and on the general state of the Vilayet of Bitlis.

Though Mr. Hampson reported the fact of the imprisonment of the Bishop of Bitlis, he was unable, being at Mush, to furnish Her Majesty's Embassy with details. I now propose to make further inquiries, and, if necessary, representations respecting this case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Bitlis, October* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that Shakir Pasha arrived here on the 10th instant, and is expected to remain till about the 25th instant, when he will leave for Sairt, and thence probably proceed to Diarbekir.

On the 15th I had a conversation with his Excellency.

I pointed out that from villages near Bitlis, which, having been plundered last year, have since received relief, and which, unless relieved again, will probably be in great

distress this winter, taxes were being rigorously collected by gendarmes during the very time of his Excellency's stay here. I said that, on that day, the 15th, gendarmes arrived in the town with sheep to be sold cheap for taxes from Vannig, a village about three hours off, which, like many other villages, was robbed by Kurds of a great part of its sheep, and that, on the same day, vast droves of sheep were being driven southward by dealers who, as I was told, had bought most of them from the Kurdish robbers.

His Excellency said he would note my statements, and he took down the names of Vannig and of another village which I gave him. He said, however, that, in the present financial embarrassments of the Government, it was difficult to show indulgence to villages which owed taxes. The Vali himself, I understood Shakir Pasha to say, had received no salary during the present year.

I referred to the anxiety which was felt on account of the delay in the migration of nomad tribes, which were said to be still near the town.

His Excellency had, in a previous conversation with me, stated that troops were accompanying all the nomads, the accuracy of which statement I am inclined to doubt. He now insisted that there was nothing to fear from these tribes, and I have, indeed, learnt from other sources that the tribes are moving, their Sheikhs having told them that there is no plundering or massacring to be expected here for the present.

His Excellency seemed to agree that there were now no revolutionists at large in the Bitlis Vilayet, but said that the cases of the many Armenians who are still in prison here are being examined.

I shortly alluded to the case of the Bishop of Bitlis, who is in prison here under sentence of death. His Excellency did not seem to wish to say much of this case, but remarked that the revolutionary movement had, to a great extent, been got up by ecclesiastics. I will return to the Bishop's case further on in this despatch.

His Excellency said that Christians would be enrolled in the gendarmerie and police for the whole vilayet in the proportion of 26 per cent. of those forces. He said that this was the proportion between the Christian and Mussulman populations, or was rather too favourable to the Christians.

I did not think it necessary to tell his Excellency that the Government might make the Kurds disgorge some more of their plunder. In the market here there are, I believe, scores of Kurdish shop-keepers who were last year men without means, and who started in business with the stock of which they robbed Armenians. The Christian villagers, who will require relief, depended to a great extent on the sheep of which they have been robbed, and as, moreover, on account of last year's plundering, they had not enough oxen for ploughing, the yield of the harvest cannot keep them alive through the winter. The general poverty is increased by the arrival of many Armenians sent back from Constantinople. A dangerous state of feeling among the Armenians is a probable result of the Government now further stripping the villagers.

There is much talk of emigration, and the local authorities appear to be now making less difficulty about the departure of Armenians.

The following is the case of the Bishop of Bitlis as it has been represented to me by Armenian informants :—

The Bishop arrived here about the 1st October last year. On the day of his arrival he met a crowd of his people in the church, and delivered an address. On Sunday, the 20th October, he preached a sermon in the church. On the 25th October the massacre took place in the town. Some letters were, it seems, discovered, written by the Bishop in invisible ink to the Patriarch in Constantinople, and the Vali was offended by the outspoken language which he from time to time heard from the Bishop. Two well-known spies were set to work, and at length, in last June, the Bishop was arrested on the charges brought by the spies of having, last October, in his public address delivered on his arrival here, urged the Armenians to spill their blood for the salvation of their race, and of having subsequently, in the sermon publicly preached on the Sunday before the massacre, urged the Armenians to attack the mosques. The Bishop refused to answer these astounding charges, and was, about the middle of July, sentenced to death.

The case is now before the Cour de Cassation at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 183.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 917.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice reporting on the anti-English feeling among Moslems in the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, September 30, 1896.*

DURING my two years and a-half residence and travel in the Province of Van, Bitlis, Erzeroum, Trebizond, and Sivas, from 1891 to 1893, I had frequently noticed in my contact with Moslems that the bulk of them entertained the idea that England was the "enemy of Islam," and during my recent journeys in the Vilayets of Adana, Aleppo, Kharput, and Diarbekir, I have found that the same idea, in an accentuated form, pervades all classes of the hybrid races that may be connoted by the term "Ottoman Moslem."

This idea I, firstly and mainly, attribute to the direct influence and inspiration of the Sultan. Abdul Hamid came to the throne with the conviction, strengthened perhaps by Sir Henry Elliot's article in the "Contemporary" in 1888, that Abdul Aziz was removed owing to English instigation, that England was the supporter of Murad, Midhat Pasha, and such reformers, and that England is ever on the look out for men of the Midhat stamp to bring about his own deposition in a similar manner.

Guiltily conscious that his personal fears and narrow-minded bigotry can never reconcile him to England's policy of the regeneration of Turkey, on broad statesmanlike lines, Abdul Hamid has opposed to that policy one of the revival of Islam, and has chosen to imagine England his personal enemy.

Relying solely on Mussulman fanaticism, which Abdul Mejid and Abdul Aziz had recognized as a political danger, and had in great measure rendered dormant, the present Sultan has reawakened and fomented that fanaticism. In his policy of the revival of Islam he has spent large sums, chiefly drawn from his State domains, which, like the former Khedive Ismail, he has greatly enlarged by methods fair and foul, on Moslem schools, medresschs, mosques, and tekkehs, while his whole administration is directed towards strengthening the Moslem element to the prejudice of non-Moslems, who, during his reign, especially in remote regions, have been subjected to a policy of slow, but certain, impoverishment and elimination (this policy has undergone alarming developments of late); he has gradually removed all Turkish statesmen of influence and liberal views, in whom he scented opposition to this policy of his, more worthy of a seventh century Caliph than a nineteenth century Sovereign, and has surrounded himself by a set of Khojas, Sheikhs, and similar fanatics attracted from Arabia, India, Afghanistan, Egypt, Wadai, Bornu, Sokolo, the Cape, &c., upon whom he lavishes large sums of money, and whom he uses as his emissaries in furtherance of his Panislamic movement in those countries.

England happens to be, directly or indirectly, the civil ruler in most of these places, and, as the Church and State are inseparably mixed up in the principles of Islam, England again happens to be the silent and passive, though not active, opponent of his personal Panislamic scheme. The fact that he has not been the recipient of the "Garter," England's presence and action in Egypt, where fanatical Moslems maintain that England, an infidel Power, has, through the Egyptian Government's past and present conflicts with the forces of Mahdism, obliged Mussulmans to war upon and kill fellow-Mussulmans, our endeavours in favour of good government in the Armenian Provinces, and our intervention on behalf of the Yezidis, who were massacred some three years ago in the Sindjar mountains, in both of which latter cases England's action was in direct opposition to the Sultan's policy of weakening the non-Moslem elements, together with the tone of the English press, have strengthened the conviction of his mind diseased, that England is the personal foe of him the Caliph of Islam.

The Palace minions, and perhaps some foreign agents have not been slow to play upon these idle fears of a suspicious nature, and have been most diligent in spreading among all classes of Ottoman Moslems the idea that Islam's enemy is England.

After the Crimean war and during the reigns of the Sultans Abdul Mejid and Abdul Aziz, Moslems in Turkey universally believed that England was their friend, and Russia their implacable enemy, but during the present reign, this order of ideas has been completely reversed.

It is true that enlightened Moslems do not share this belief, but they are in a minority, and, under the present reign of terror, are obliged to officially profess it, while the vast masses of ignorant Moslems, who are blindly and implicitly obedient to the Sultan and his whims and wishes, accept the new doctrine, though many of them have secret misgivings that it may not be quite correct; for wise saws and proverbs have a strong hold on the Moslem masses, and they cannot wholly reject their old saying that "an ancient foe can never become a sincere friend, nor an old friend a real enemy, even as a hardened infidel can never become a true believer."

During recent years Abdul Hamid has endeavoured to divert Moslem discontent with his despotic rule, by representing, through his Sheikhs and creatures, that the disasters, which are really the outcome of his insane and retrograde régime, are caused by foreign interference, especially that of England, and by the objects of such interference, viz., his Christian rayahs or serfs, and that the Islam State can only be saved by the removal of that interference and its objects.

If the Druses rebel against cruelty and misrule, he professes to see in it the hand of England, and similarly in the case of the Cretans and Armenians, while there seems no doubt that last year he succeeded for the moment in defending himself from the consequences of the discontent and hostility of his Moslem subjects, outwardly evidenced and voiced by the independent conduct of Kiamil and Said Pashas, by turning against his Armenian subjects and England, on the pretence that the Armenians as a nation were rebels to Islam, abetted by England, the whole force of that fanaticism which he had carefully nursed and fostered during many years.

Another cause or means of the spread of this erroneous anti-English idea is the influence of some Moslem papers published abroad in Turkish, and having a very wide circulation in all parts of the Empire.

Not to mention some Egyptian journals subsidized by the Palace, and widely read among the Arabs of Egypt and Turkey, or the "El-Basira" of N. Melhameh, brother of Selim Effendi, and circulated among the North African Arabs, there is the "Terjuman" published in the Crimea, the "Zeman" of Cyprus, the "Ghairet" and "Emniyyet" of Philippopoli. While the two latter papers mostly reflect, from a Moslem standpoint, the erroneous views on British policy in Turkey and the East, to be met with in the French, German, and other continental presses, the "Zeman" of Cyprus, edited by an individual called Dervish Pasha, who is constantly receiving decorations and perhaps money from Constantinople, is an organ of the Palace, and confines itself to propagating the most distorted notions of British aims, and representing England as Turkey's foe. It has a very wide circulation among the Moslems of Adana, Sivas, Kharput, Diarbekir, and Aleppo, and sedulously tries to poison the Mussulman mind against England, and, though complete liberty of the press prevails on purely British soil, the authorities of Cyprus, which is only partly British, might, by a little friendly advice judiciously administered, moderate the anti-English tendencies of Dervish Pasha's Yildiz organ.

The Crimean "Terjuman," which has an exceedingly wide circulation in the capital and Anatolian provinces, and which is of course under the control of the Russian censorship, seems to work for the same object in the northern provinces as the "Zeman" in the southern provinces of Asia Minor, by treating its readers to a reproduction of the scurrilous abuse and mendacious versions of England and her policy with which we are familiar in the Russian press.

All this looks like contemptible intrigue, but in dealing with Oriental populations who live, move, and have their being in an atmosphere of inaccuracy and insincerity which warps their judgment, it must be reckoned with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 184.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 921. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, giving extracts from letters he has received from Cæsarea, reporting on the state of affairs in that district.

I would call your Lordship's attention to the statement respecting the German travellers about whom I am making further inquiries.

One of the Germans alluded to is no doubt General Verdy du Vernois, who has been staying for some time in Constantinople and has recently visited Koniah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 105.)
Sir, *Angora, November 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency some extracts from a letter recently received from a trustworthy correspondent at Cæsarea.

"Externally all has been quiet here for some time past, but this is far from meaning that there is no anxiety. During the past month a number of Armenian houses have been searched, though without any success from the official standpoint, and some fifteen Armenians have been thrown into prison on indefinite charges of sedition. I cannot discover that anything has been proven against them, although I happen to know, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a few of them—certainly three—have been implicated to some extent in revolutionary matters. These are Ghemerek men, one known to have been a companion of Morook, who was hanged at Yuzgat.* One, Minas Hadji Minassian, also a Ghemerekli, I know to have some sympathy and possibly dealings with revolutionary Committees, although I doubt his having taken any active part in the business. He was a student in Anatolia College, Marsovan, last year, but the college authorities did not like his appearance and tendencies, and advised him to take his departure."

* * * * * * *

"Among the fifteen young men recently imprisoned I have good reason to believe that at least five are innocent of any real crime. I asked the Police Commissary about them a few days ago and he practically admitted that they had found no fault in some of them, although his remark was that ten had not denied their guilt. The worst part of the business is that torture has, without doubt, been resorted to in, at least, two cases in order to force confession. My informant is the most trustworthy man of our acquaintance and has exceptional opportunities for learning the facts. Nails have been driven into the finger-nails of the men; and they have been branded with hot irons. I also know that some have escaped imprisonment by the payment of heavy bribes. I could tell you the names, but in order to secure them I was obliged to promise secrecy."

* * * * * * *

"Last spring a German, Dr. Lepsius, visited Cæsarea and after conferring with Mr. ———, he decided to do something towards establishing an orphanage for the children whose parents were killed in the late massacre. After his return to Germany he desired statistics as to the number of killed, orphans, &c., and Nazaret Effendi investigated the matter, writing a letter to Lepsius. A copy of this letter was seized when the police searched his house, and naturally made the officials provoked. There is nothing in the letter that is not strictly true, but the Government does not want the truth to be known. I should say that Mardiros, the son of the Nazaret Effendi above mentioned, has been imprisoned for having written from his father's dictation the letter referred to. I might also mention that the Dr. Lepsius above referred to contributed 200*l.* towards an Orphan Relief Fund.

* In April 1834.—W. S. R

"Appeals for assistance are already coming in from surrounding villages, and it looks as if there is to be much suffering during the coming winter.

"I forgot to mention that two Germans, Messrs. Oberhammer and Zimmerer, are surveying the region about Mershehr and Urgub in the interests of Professor Kiepert and of the Munich Geographical Society. After about a month's time they expect to settle at Talas for the winter. Their sympathies are pretty strongly Turkish, and thus far they have not been able to see that everything is not just as it should be, because they have chosen to visit the region where no disturbances have taken place—Cæsarea excepted—and therefore have seen nothing but official smoothness and courtesy; they conclude, that reports circulated 'by the English' in Europe are all lies for political effect. If any have been killed, they were only Armenians who deserved it!"

* * * * * *

"How brilliant it is for a German to visit Koniah as a certain Count ——— did recently, and on the strength of his 'tour' to that one city, report that perfect quiet and prosperity prevails throughout the interior of Asia Minor. So Germany is ambitious to control this country, it seems!"

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 185.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 923.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 883 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a telegram which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput giving details of the massacre at Eghin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Kharput, November* 8, 1896.

FOLLOWING from an official who has investigated the Eghin disturbance.

Owing to apprehension of Kurdish attack, most of Armenian male population went to quarter where barracks are situated for protection. They were summoned thence to the Government House, and on their way there were attacked by troops assisted by Mussulmans; 1,500 in all were killed, of whom 200 were women and children. They gave no offence; there was no revolutionary movement whatever, and no powder magazine exploded. A few pistols and revolvers were found in the ruins of burnt houses. It is suggested that a European Commission should be sent to investigate.

No. 186.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 925.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 836 of the 14th ultimo on the subject of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Tribunal for the trial of persons connected with the recent disturbances in Constantinople, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship

herewith a further Table giving the names and number of persons sentenced, together with a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Devey, commenting on the nature of the cases heard and the character of the sentences passed.

Your Lordship will observe that the average sentence passed on Moslems is four months' imprisonment, whereas in the case of Armenians it is seven years; that only one Moslem who confessed his guilt has been condemned to a long term of imprisonment, and that none of the acts of violence committed by the mob of rioters have met with adequate punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Further Statement of Names of Persons sentenced by Extraordinary Tribunal.

Case of.	Short Description.	Number of Prisoners.	Article of Code applied.	Nationality.				Sentenced.	Date.	Remarks.
				Moslem.	Greek.	Jew.	Armenian.		1896.	
Ohannes Kumarian ..	Blaspheming Jews, and seditious language	1	..	..	..	..	1	Acquitted	Oct. 29 ..	
Yovan a Janik ..	A chief of the agitators	1	..	..	..	..	1	.. .. ..	..	Pending. Claims to be a Hellene.
Kalesijn Meleon ..	Possession of explosives in Galata, and acts of sedition	1	57	..	..	..	1	15 years' hard labour ..	Oct. 14 ..	
Jusi	Possession of stolen goods ..	1	230	1	..	..	..	3 months	Oct. 14 ..	
Meliton (of Shabin Kar-Hissar)	Sedition, based chiefly on letter received from his son, a boy, in the interior	1	58 (applied)	..	..	..	1	3 years' imprisonment ..	Oct. 14 ..	A hard case.
Krikor, son of Bedros ..	Wounding Hussein at Hasskeui on 27th August	1	57	..	..	..	1	5 years' hard labour ..	Oct. 24 ..	
Melkon (Yazmaji) ..	Seditious language	1	..	..	..	..	1	.. .. ..	..	No information.
Sukiman, Edhem, Kiamil, Sidali	Possession of stolen goods ..	4	230	4	..	..	..	4 months' imprisonment each	Oct. 24 ..	
Boyak Millet Khan ..	Firing in Galata and wounding .	10	57	..	..	..	10	Nine acquitted; one only, Garabet, sentenced to 10 years	Nov. 2 ..	
Krikor A. Sarkis ..	Seditious language and insulting Sultan	1	57	..	..	..	1	15 years' penal servitude ..	Nov. 1 ..	
Shaban and Ismail ..	Wounding Manouk	2	179	2	..	..	..	Shaban acquitted; Ismail 1 year imprisonment	Oct. 26 ..	
Mustafa Chaoush ..	Wounding Movses	1	..	1	..	..	..	Acquitted	Oct. 26 ..	
Bedros (Barber) ..	Seditious language	1	57	..	..	..	1	3 years' penal servitude ..	Oct. 26 ..	
Migraditch (?)	Firing revolver in Galata .. .	1	..	..	..	..	1	Acquitted	Oct. 26 ..	
Mesrob	Seditious language	1	..	..	..	..	1	Ditto	Oct. 26 ..	
Migraditch (?)	Ditto	1	(?)	..	..	..	1	3 years' imprisonment ..	Oct. 27 ..	
Bourse Khan	Armenians firing revolvers in Galata	3	..	..	..	..	3	.. .. ..	..	Pending.
Seven Moslem youths and two Persians	Possession of stolen goods ..	9	230	9	..	..	..	Acquitted; two Persians sentenced to 12 months (?) by default	Oct. 27 ..	

Hussein	Possession of stolen goods ..	1	230	1	..	..	..	3 months' imprisonment ..	Oct. 27 ..	
Amrif and Hamet ..	Ditto	2	230	2	..	..	..	Ditto	Oct. 28 ..	
Abdullah	Ditto	1	230	1	..	..	..	Ditto	Oct. 28 ..	
Abram	Ditto	1	230	..	..	1	..	5 months' imprisonment ..	Oct. 28 ..	
Thirteen Kurds ..	Ditto	13	..	13	..	..	..	.. .. ..	..	Pending.
Toroson	Stealing money	1	..	1	..	..	..	Acquitted unanimously ..	Oct. 29 ..	
Kroecker's Hotel ..	Armenians throwing a bomb at police	4	57	..	..	..	4	Boghos, 15 years' penal servitude; three others, 10 years' penal servitude	Oct. 31 ..	
Ahmed, Salih, and others	Murder of an Armenian at Hasskeui	5	..	..	..	..	..	.. .. ..	..	Pending (?).
Abdurrahman and others	Murder and wounding	6	..	6	..	..	..	Acquitted unanimously ..	Oct. 29 ..	
Hassan, Suleiman, and Osman	Possession of stolen goods ..	3	230	3	..	..	..	Hassan acquitted; two others, 3 months' imprisonment	Oct. 31 ..	
Kuchuk Millet Khan ..	Firing revolvers on troops, 26th August	6	..	..	..	..	6	.. .. ..	..	
Ali bin Sherif ..	Possession of stolen goods (?) ..	1	(?)	1	..	..	..	(?) ..	..	No information.
Mouestidi Mehmed ..	Ditto (?)	1	(?)	1	..	..	..	(?) ..	..	Ditto.
Krikor, son of Serkis ..	Firing on troops	1	57	..	..	..	1	10 years' imprisonment ..	Nov. 3 ..	
Stepan	Ditto	1	58 (applied)	..	..	..	1	15 ,, ,, ..	Nov. 3 ..	
(Asalian), Mihran, and Yevant	Seditious documents and literature ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	.. .. ..	..	
Agob	Sedition	1	..	..	..	..	1	Acquitted unanimously ..	Nov. 3 ..	
Panp	Seditious language	1	..	..	..	..	1	,, by majority ..	Nov. 3 ..	
Izmir Oghlou Khan ..	Bomb-throwing opposite Voivoda, August 26th and 27th, and wounding	5	..	..	..	..	5	.. .. ..	..	

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Devey.

OUT of some ninety-five cases which have now been before the Special Court, I have had some knowledge of about seventy cases, and may have followed forty to fifty of these throughout the hearing.

In continuation of some remarks that I had the honour to submit four weeks ago, I will add that in the great majority of cases the Articles of the Criminal Code to which recourse has been had were Articles 230 and 57, with sentences averaging four months and seven years, upon Moslems and Armenians respectively; or, in other words, that Armenians have been chastised twenty times as severely as Moslems for having taken part in the sedition and riots.

I have already ventured to suggest that political expediency should be considered to form in a degree part of the *raison d'être* for this Tribunal, and that its sentences cannot be judged solely by the standard of strict impartial and unerring justice; and although in no one of the charges laid against a band of Armenians (mostly hamals employed in a khan) has satisfactory evidence, to my mind, been forthcoming of the prisoners' personal guilt of discharging fire-arms or explosives with treasonable intent, yet the conviction and consequent severe penalty might be admitted justified in these dozen or so cases (Kuchuk Millet Khan has formed the only exception by way of total acquittal), provided that, in common fairness, a counterbalancing number of cases of murder and wounding of Armenians by rioters had been brought before the Court; but, on the latter count, one individual, who had confessed his guilt, has been condemned to fifteen years' and one to one year's imprisonment.

In extension of this proposition, a bomb has been thrown from So-and-so Khan, a dozen hamals and others found inside. They are charged with the offence construed as high treason, and have to prove their innocence. Eventually three or four are condemned on such grounds as being employed or sleeping near the actual spot of the crime charged, or being a "bekji" or "kahveji," and hence presumed to know and take note of any and all who enter the khan; but, on the other hand, among the numerous Mussulmans prosecuted under Article 230, no suggestion has ever been thrown out that the prisoner was a notorious bad character, that he was believed to have broken into a shop or khan, that he was armed, that it was by night in the thick of the disturbances, and so on. Prisoner's simple statement that he found goods in the street, and was proposing to hand them to the police, passes without comment, and he is sentenced to three or four months' imprisonment.

I think I may say that no type of the mob of rioters has as yet received condign punishment.

As to excessive sentences allotted to Armenians, I would mention the death sentence in Vitalis Khan case, the sentences in the Krocker Hotel case, and the insufficiency of proof before the Court in the Bourse Khan case.

In the charge against the stove-maker Leon, the evidence heard produced an impression that there had been a coalition among the "Muarif" servants to avenge a private grudge against one of them.

In that against the "fezji" Tatos, the evidence was quite insufficient for conviction.

The seditious papers found in Hirant's possession should hardly have necessitated his appearance before the Court.

The case of seditious language against Krikor *alias* Serkis was far too severely adjudged. Even allowing offensive words against His Majesty the Sultan to have been uttered, the maximum punishment is three years' imprisonment for this offence.

I believe that in the case of Stepan, sentenced to fifteen years—two days, unfortunately, heard in my absence—the conviction was obtained on the evidence of one witness only.

I have elsewhere referred to the murder charge against Bekir and Osman, who are stated to have been acquitted.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Constantinople, November 5, 1896.

No. 187.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 946.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 9, 1896.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 327 of the 30th October, I have the honour to state that I have already caused representations to be made on the subject of the deplorable condition of the Armenians in the Feke district of Kozan, and the inefficiency of the present Vali of Adana.

I have not, however, succeeded in obtaining the removal of that official, but I will continue to press the matter on the attention of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 188.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 928.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to call your Lordship's attention to the inclosed Memorandum by Mr. Devey, from which it appears that the injustice and partiality of the "Special Court" are becoming more and more scandalous.

Six Armenians were tried on a charge of killing soldiers by firing from the Société Ottomane Générale, which is opposite the Ottoman Bank. It appears to have been clearly proved that the line of fire was from the Ottoman Bank to the opposite side of the road, and witnesses testified that the accused had been under their immediate surveillance all the time of the disturbances, and had taken no part in them.

Nevertheless, all the prisoners but one were condemned to death on the evidence of persons who are said to have been too far off to be certain of the facts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Memorandum of Proceedings at the Special Court.

MOVSÉS was found guilty of firing on the troops on the fourth day of the disturbances, and condemned to fifteen years' hard labour under Article 57.

Garabed was acquitted unanimously of firing on troops on the 26th August near Galata Serai. Nine witnesses were examined, and it was established quite clearly that at the moment of the firing he was with several others who had taken refuge in a flower shop near the Pera Mutessariflik.

The rest of the day was taken up with the Eugenides Bank case (Société Ottomane Générale), sentence of death being passed on the five accused, Stepan, Orgian, son of Markar, Boghos, Orgian, son of Mardiros, and Minas, the sixth prisoner (a guest just arrived, and presumably a poor man), Agiah, being acquitted.

The first mentioned was found guilty unanimously of firing and killing a zaptieh, the others of firing, and hence of sedition by majority.

About a dozen witnesses, mostly for the defence, were heard, including several of the employés of the Société Ottomane, but six witnesses gave evidence as to the firing and killing from the Société Ottomane Bank. During my absence on one of the previous days of hearing of this case, it would appear that a gendarme, alongside of his colleague killed, had specified Stepan as the murderer, so it was practically useless for M. Napoleone Capadanai (and others) to testify that the accused were under their immediate and close surveillance all the time of the disturbances. The defence ran chiefly on the lines that the firing and bomb throwing referred to was from the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and the line of firing between the bank and the

stone stairs opposite next to the Société Ottomane clearly proved this; also that witnesses for the charge were too far off to be certain as to the facts.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Constantinople, November 9, 1896.

No. 189.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 930. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1896.*

THE French, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors have all been received in private audience by the Sultan in the course of the last few days, the two latter on the occasion of their departure on leave, while the French Ambassador was specially invited by His Majesty, who wished to converse with him about the recent debate in the French Chamber.

M. Cambon's audience was a long one, and he insisted much on the strong feeling in regard to recent events in Turkey shown in the interpellations addressed to M. Hanotaux, and the speeches delivered from different sides of the Chamber. He dwelt on the necessity of reforms, and warned the Sultan that if any further massacres took place in Constantinople he must be prepared for European intervention. The Sultan, as usual, gave unlimited assurances of his benevolent intentions, and of the perfect order and security prevailing in his dominions.

I am informed that His Imperial Majesty did not attach much importance to the language of M. Cambon, which was of a kind that he had already frequently heard. He appears to be persuaded that M. Hanotaux' speech was on the whole favourable to his views, and that he has nothing at present to fear from France.

M. de Nélidow's audience only lasted a quarter of an hour, and was brought to an abrupt end by the Sultan, who appears to have been much disturbed by the Ambassador's language.

His Majesty had begun the conversation by the usual compliments to the Emperor of Russia, and had expressed the hope that the latter would intrust M. de Nélidow with assurances of his friendship and support.

The Ambassador, in his reply, said that he had no doubt of the Emperor's friendly feelings towards the Sultan, but that circumstances had somewhat changed since he had last seen His Majesty; that the Emperor had been visiting foreign capitals, and that the disturbances which have taken place in the Ottoman Empire, and which had been a matter of concern to the Powers of Europe, had formed the subject of conversations which His Majesty had held with foreign Sovereigns and statesmen. He (M. de Nélidow) was going to St. Petersburgh in order to receive such instructions as might be rendered necessary by these altered circumstances.

The Sultan asked with unusual abruptness whether he meant to convey that there was a concert of the Powers, and, if so, what was the object of it? M. de Nélidow replied that he could not state its precise nature until he had received the instructions which he was about to seek, but that he could say this much, that the view held in common by the Powers is that some course should be adopted that will be fitted to protect their interests without inflicting any damage on the Sultan or his Empire.

His Majesty seemed greatly troubled at these words, and remained silent for several minutes, with his eyes fixed upon the ground. Then, with an effort, he made some observations as to the Ambassador's journey, and brought the audience to a close.

The Austrian Ambassador, who started to-day to escort Mme. de Calice to Cairo, where she will spend the winter, and who intends to return in a fortnight, saw the Sultan yesterday. Nothing passed beyond an interchange of polite speeches. The Sultan made many inquiries as to the health of the Emperor of Austria, the excellence of which he attributed to His Majesty's healthy mode of life. This led His Majesty to the remark that he also had always been equally careful, and that he is consequently in a perfect state of health.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 190.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 932.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting that the Government is settling Nogai Tartars in the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 107.)

Sir, *Angora, November 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that 300 families of Nogai Tartars—about 1,500 souls—arrived here from Constantinople last night. It would appear that others are expected in the course of a few days. I need hardly point out that anything more inopportune—to use the mildest language possible—than such an invasion at this time of the year can hardly be imagined. The authorities have only just succeeded in establishing the horde of Circassians with which this vilayet was flooded a year ago, and even now acts of pilfering, of which they are the authors, are constantly being reported. What will be done with these Tartars, who, I am informed, are evidently very poor, it is difficult to say.

One thing may be predicted with almost absolute certainty, and that is that the country all round Angora will, for the next six months at least, be quite unsafe either for townspeople going out or country folk coming in.

It must be acknowledged that Tartars have not the deservedly bad reputation of Circassians and Kurds, but what can be expected of some hundreds of semi-civilized men, who, being without resources, are suddenly thrown, as it were, at the gates of a relatively flourishing town, and left to pick up a living as they can all through a long and, usually, severe winter?

If they do not cause endless trouble and annoyance it will, I consider, be very greatly to their credit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 191.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 933.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Williams, British Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the impracticability of carrying out reforms without money.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 37.)

Sir, *Van, October 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Vali informs me that he is being strongly urged from Constantinople, presumably owing to pressure from the Ambassadors, to immediately carry out the reorganization of the police force and the reformed system of nahiés.

I feel it, however, my duty to point out to your Excellency that these measures cannot be carried out under present circumstances. Owing to the impossibility of paying or even rationing them, all the best men have left the police; and until there is some prospect of pay being forthcoming, there is no likelihood of any Armenians being induced to serve. Even were they enlisted and paid regularly, the Armenian policemen would for some time be quite useless for any work outside the town. What is required at the present time is such a reorganization of the existing police force as will put at the disposal of the Vali a force of, say, 200 good men, regularly paid, who can be trusted to deal with any Kurdish raid on the Armenian villages. Even the maintenance of a small force like this is at present beyond the financial capacity of the province. I have constantly pointed out to your Excellency the urgent need for money, but practically nothing has been done. A few small sums have been sent, which have not sufficed to pay the extra charges entailed by the recent increase in the garrison, the expenses of Shakir Pasha's and other missions. Presumably, therefore, there is no money available. The truth of the matter is, that it is idle to talk of reforms unless they are preceded by a thorough financial reorganization of the Empire. Such a work can only be carried out by Europeans. The Vali himself, a most bigoted Mahommedan, told me he was convinced that this was the only way of saving the situation, and that his experience here had shown him clearly that his own countrymen were incapable of doing it themselves. He suggested making use of the existing machinery of the public debt and the Ottoman Bank. No one who has travelled in this country can doubt the possibility of putting the finances of the Government in a thoroughly sound state. Anatolia is one of the richest countries in the world, both as regards its mineral and agricultural wealth. For instance, a few miles from Van, are found both coal of good quality and petroleum, while the Lake of Van is a borax mine. Yet the few remaining forests are being cut down for fuel, the cow-dung, instead of manuring the fields, is burnt, and oil is brought at great expense across the mountains from Russia.

Shakir Pasha proposes to do away with the Vilayet of Bitlis, and there is no doubt that efficiency and economy would both be secured by the suppression of some of the smaller vilayets. If his recommendation were carried out, 100,000*l.* would be required to start the new Vilayet of Van in a proper manner. The impetus given to trade, most of which is with Manchester, by the gradual payment of the arrears of salary, would be enormous; and, under a proper Administration, this sum could easily be repaid in ten years, even if it carried a high rate of interest. There can be no doubt that this country is very lightly taxed, but Christian and Mahommedan alike groan under the present system, and are heartily sick of the swindling and thieving which have ruined the country. For the first time since I have been here can I see a little daylight ahead. The revolutionary movement appears to be scotched. The Turks, from highest to lowest, have felt the pinch of poverty, and begin to realize that their welfare is bound up with that of the Armenian population. The revulsion of feeling is very marked here, now that there is no more danger of the revolutionists crossing the frontier this year.

It will, of course, be some time, even under the most favourable circumstances, before the horrible events of the last year are forgotten. For it must be remembered that the ignorant and now fanatical Mahommedans of this country look at recent events from a very different point of view to us Europeans. They would never have massacred all these innocent people if they had not been worked on with the cry of "Islam in danger." I believe that real reforms would be received with acclamation by all sections of the population; education, and the gradual spread of civilization as the country is opened up, will do the rest. The real needs of the country are not met by the scheme of reforms sanctioned last year. I do not believe that if they were carried out to-morrow in their entirety that the position of the Armenian people would be materially improved. The first and most pressing need is money. This must be found at all costs, and in the near future, or all hope for the regeneration of this country is nothing but an idle dream. The Turkish Government, as at present constituted, is perfectly hopeless. But take away the finance, and to some extent decentralize the Administration, and there is no reason why the country should not settle down, and the recent terrible events be gradually forgotten. There can be no doubt that the fanatical outbreaks of the last year were largely due to the insensate and criminal actions of a handful of revolutionaries, directed and controlled by some Central Committee outside the country. The position was still further accentuated by the extraordinary ideas which were prevalent among both Turks and Armenians as to the attitude of England towards this movement, which had for its avowed object, not the execution of reforms, but the formation of a great Armenian State, embracing a large portion of Anatolia and portions of the Caucasus and Persia. I had several long conversations with the revolutionary leaders here in June last. The chief of the Tashnak Society told me that they had got up a revolution at Zeitoun with the idea that, being near the Mediterranean, England would have helped them. And he seemed much disconcerted when I told him that we had no sympathy with anything of the kind, and that I had never even heard it suggested that we should do more than try and save those poor and misguided people from the consequences of their own folly. The Mouavin told me that he was told by Turks of the Palace party that he would find Van flooded with English gold. I found myself the most extraordinary ideas prevalent among the Armenians here as to what England was prepared to do for them. I read Lord Salisbury's Guildhall speech to some of the Notables, and they seem astonished when I told them that, as far as I knew, nothing more nor less was, or had been, intended.

It is with great diffidence that I have put forward these views, but the extreme gravity of the situation must be my warrant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 192.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 935.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting on the prospects of reforms.

I have, &c
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, October 26, 1896.*

THE new Ferik, Yahia Pasha, who has taken command of the division of Reserves in the place of Zia Pasha, who takes command of a division of active troops at Erzeroum, arrived here from Erzeroum on the 22nd instant, Zia Pasha having left for Erzeroum on the 12th instant. The centre of the division of Reserves, which was at Sairt, has this year been transferred to Diarbekir, though only temporarily, I am told.

I am glad to be able to report that, in spite of the departure of Zia Pasha, which it was feared would produce disturbances, things have remained as quiet as I reported them to be in my despatch No. 29 of the 29th September last. The local Government, owing, no doubt, to orders received from Constantinople, has been exerting itself to maintain order, with the result that there has been no attempt at disturbances.

As I have already had the honour to point out, everything depends on the attitude of the Government. The Kurds have, generally speaking, no importance as an element of disorder unless they act with the connivance of the authorities.

On the other hand, the outlook for the Christian villagers is not very bright. Those whose villages were destroyed last autumn have mostly neither animals for ploughing nor seed to sow. A good many of the villages have now been partially rebuilt with relief money, of which a certain amount remains over to be used in buying seed, &c., for the villagers. The worst of it is there is not much security for property of any sort in the villages, robberies continue, and the Government exerts itself but little to check them.

The authorities here have been receiving strong orders lately to put the "reforms" into execution, but I must confess that I fail to see what practical good they will do the people; indeed, I fear that in some cases they may do more harm than good. Thus, should mahiés be formed throughout the vilayet, as prescribed by Chapter 4 of the Reform Scheme, the Mudirs and Mukhtars elected will in the great majority of cases be Kurds, probably of just the class whose power it is most desirable to curtail.

I estimate (roughly, and on very scanty data) the population of this vilayet at about 550,000, of whom about 150,000 Christians, the rest mostly Moslem, with a few Yezeedis and Jews. Of the total, about 30,000 Christians, and the same number of Moslems, reside in the towns of Diarbekir and Mardin, so that, excluding these town populations, the figures are 370,000 Moslems (who are nearly all Kurds) to

70,000 Christians (mostly Armenians and Syrians), or a majority of more than three to one in favour of the Moslems. The number, therefore, of Christian officials will necessarily be very small, especially as the two elements are scattered together throughout the vilayet, and not separated territorially. Consequently, I fear that the appointment of a large number of Mudirs and Mukhtars would have a somewhat similar effect to the appointment of the Hamidieh officers; it would invest a number of local magnates, who are already a scourge to their poorer neighbours, with an official authority which they would be certain to abuse.

Moreover, as the administration of these provinces is to be entirely in the hands of Ottoman officials, it scarcely seems desirable to multiply local officials, as the practical effect will be to increase the expenses of administration at a time of great impoverishment, and to widen the area of corruption. I am convinced that practical improvement can only be effected by bringing pressure on the Government to appoint better officials, and to give more power to the Valis and Mutessarifs to exercise summary jurisdiction in criminal cases, as the judicial authorities cannot be trusted to do justice, and it is difficult for the poor to get evidence against the rich. Unless the appointment of better officials can be secured, no amount of minute regulations will do any practical good here. In this province, besides the Vali, whom I have had frequent occasion to criticize unfavourably, there are two Mutessarifs, those of Arguni Aladen and Mardin, the one very corrupt, and the other very incompetent, and eleven Kaïmakams, of whom perhaps two or three would pass muster as relatively good officials, and most of whom exercise less practical authority in their districts than the Kurdish Beys and Aghas. No doubt really good officials are hard to find in Turkey, but much better men might be found than those who now bear office in this vilayet, and, until they are found, there cannot be any real improvement in the administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 193.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 936.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 11, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 445 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, giving an account of the massacre at Everek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 108.)
Sir, *Angora, November* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 4th instant and that of this day's date, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the massacre therein reported took place on the morning of the 30th ultimo in the village of Everek, which lies about 24 miles due south of Cæsarea. I have no certain information up to the present as to how the affair originated, though one account has it that it was in some way connected with the impressment by the local authorities of labourers for the repairing of the roads, while here it is currently reported that a fire was indirectly the cause of the outbreak. The Turkish version would appear to be to the effect that a band of Armenians was preparing to attack the mosques on the day in question (Friday) when the Turks getting wind of the project proceeded to turn the tables on the (alleged) would-be aggressors by rushing out of the various mosques and killing all the Armenians that were to be seen. The latter part of this story is credible enough, but the ferocious Armenian "mosque sacker" is, I believe, yet to be found, at all events in the interior, though the Turkish authorities are pleased to represent him as ubiquitous.

As regards the number of killed, the Armenians put the total at 150, while the Turkish unofficial version admits of seventy victims only. Probably the truth lies about half-way between the two statements.

I have no information as to the number of the wounded.

The number of houses burned, say the Turks, was about forty, whereas the Armenians declare that not only were sixty houses burnt to the ground, but from thirty to forty shops were looted.

Judging from reliable information received from Cæsarea, I am inclined to believe that the massacre was planned beforehand, because the majority of those who took part in it—Turks, Circassians, and Avshar Kurds—came from outside. It is even averred that a considerable proportion of the attacking party had hidden themselves in the town over night so as to be ready for the work of slaughter and destruction on the following day. Moreover, the attack was, it seems, commenced simultaneously from without and from within, many Turks coming from the village of Develi, which lies just below Everek.

The authorities appear to have made a faint, but most ineffectual, attempt to put down the movement, the number of zaptiehs available for the purpose being ludicrously inadequate.

As soon as the news of the massacre reached Cæsarea, thirty zaptiehs, under the command of the Tabour Aghassi (sandjak), Commander of Gendarmerie, were dispatched to Everek at once, being followed, after a short interval, by a company of infantry, but unfortunately they arrived too late.

The Kaïmakam of Everek has the reputation of being an exceedingly harsh and brutal man, most unmercifully extortionate in the matter of tax collecting. In this latter respect, however, he is, probably, only obeying the orders of his superiors.

I am given to understand that the Vali, who, as I informed your Excellency in my despatch No. 90 of the 19th ultimo, is now on his annual tour of inspection, arrived in Cæsarea on the very day on which the massacre took place, but of course it was took late then to take any effectual steps to prevent its occurrence, or even to moderate the fury of its authors.

I shall report again to your Excellency on this subject as soon as I obtain further reliable details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—I should say that Everek is a large village; it might even be styled a small town.

W. S. R.

No. 194.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 937.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 11, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Van reporting on forced conversions in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Van, October* 25, 1896.

IN the "Weekly Times" of the 2nd October, p. 608, it is stated that the Duke of Westminster received the following telegram from an authoritative source:—

"*Philippopoli, September* 25, 1896.

". . . . Over 10,000 forced converts to Islam round Van."

I was much astonished at these figures, which I know to be a gross exaggeration. However, to make sure, I took the opportunity of a visit to the Acting Catholicos of Akhtamar, who is also acting temporarily as Bishop of Van, to ask him for the numbers according to the lists in his possession. After a careful examination he informed me

that the number was under 1,000. My own idea was that it was rather less. I am constantly occupied with this question, which is, however, an extremely difficult and delicate one. I brought the matter to the notice of Shakir Pasha during his recent visit here, and I have not ceased to urge on the local authorities the importance of this matter and, I may say, with considerable results.

It must, however, not be supposed that these people have been duly converted and accepted as Mahommedans. Most of them have merely put on the turban, though, in some cases, they are carefully watched by their Mahommedan neighbours to guard against backsliding. Orders have been received from the Grand Vizier that conversions are on no account to be accepted in the present state of the province. I only know of three cases, two young women who have married Turks, and a man who insisted on being accepted, and he has been sent away for a month before his name, &c., is changed. It is extremely easy to get those who have nominally embraced Islam, in fear of their lives, re-made Christians, but it is not so easy to secure their protection after their re-conversion. Much may, however, be done, and much is done, in a quiet and ostentatious manner, so as to avoid exciting the more fanatical Mahommedans.

There is, however, a danger which must not be lost sight of, and that is an indefinite continuance of the present state of impotence to which the Government has been reduced through want of funds, in which case many of these so-called converts would be actually obliged by their neighbours to go through the various ceremonies of acceptation, &c.; and from this point of view it would, perhaps, be their wisest course. The one thing that can prevent this is money. The gendarmerie practically no longer exists. If your Excellency could get 20,000*l.*, or even 10,000*l.*, sent here at once, all these difficulties would disappear. The revolution is, I believe, dead here. Everything is favourable to a fresh start, and it seems hard that for a paltry sum like this a whole population is to suffer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 195.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 938.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 860 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting on the outbreak in the Hauran, and the proceedings of Abdullah Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Damascus, October 28, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 11th instant, and previous correspondence relative to the Hauran disturbances, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that discord still prevails between the Mushir, the Commission, and the Vali. The Mushir is credited with the desire of settling the question without further resort to force, if possible, and the Vali lately put before the Administrative Council a Mazbata procured by himself and signed by certain Haurani Moslems, stating that they were in fear of the Druses, and that unless the Druses were crushed, they would always be a danger to the Moslems and the Government. The Council, however, refused to indorse this Mazbata, and the Vali was therefore unable to effect his purpose of informing the Sublime Porte that the Moslems of this district desired the forcible repression or extermination of the Druses.

The latest news from the Hauran is to the effect that the Mushir summoned the leaders of the Haurani Moslems and demanded of them that they should submit to military conscription, payment of tithes, and registration of lands. Hitherto, the Hauranis have paid the military exemption tax, and a fixed sum in lieu of tithes, while their lands are

only very partially registered. They answered that military service would be their ruin, as they would be unable to cultivate their lands and defend themselves against their enemies; that they had placed 9,000 camels at the service of the Government for military transport, and that all had perished. They were, being thus impoverished, unable to pay registration fees. The Mushir did not press the matter further.

Sixty Druse Sheikhs were also invited to appear at Suedah, and fourteen complied. The Mushir demanded of them 900 conscripts to replace the soldiers killed at Orman, and the restitution of 3,600 Martini rifles and a number of horses, mules, &c. The Druses promised to give a reply by the end of this month. Of the Sheikhs, four were detained by the Mushir, two of them being of the number of those who had returned from Rhodes. This measure is likely to have a bad effect on the rest of the Druses, and the news that the Mushir had moved troops up to Orman will not improve the outlook.

I learn, also, that the Mushir has desired the Commission to withdraw the Report they had made to the Sublime Porte, as it was not founded on facts.

Sixteen officers have been arrested for misconduct of the battle of Shaba, which goes to prove that the troops were defeated there, contrary to the official statements, which made out that a small skirmish occurred, resulting in the dispersion of the Druses, as I had the honour to report previously to your Excellency.

A Redif battalion has been sent to Suedah from Nablous, and 700 cavalry of the 29th and 30th Alais left this town for the same destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 196.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 939.)
My Lord, *Constantinople November 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 545 of the 9th July, I have the honour to report that Ennis Pasha, whose administration of Diarbekir has been the cause of repeated representations by the Six Powers to the Porte, has at last been dismissed from his office. Khalid Bey, President of the Criminal Court, has been appointed Vali in his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 197.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury,—(Received November 19.)

(No. 940.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput reporting the arrival there of the Armenians expelled from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Kharput, October 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that during the past six weeks upwards of 800 Armenians from Constantinople have arrived here, at different times, on their way to their homes. The majority of these men performed the journey from Samsoun on foot; I met, upon two occasions, with bands of them upon the Malatia road, and was struck by their evident poverty and weariness.

Large numbers of Armenians expelled from Constantinople are stated, moreover, to have reached Malatia, Arabkir, and other towns in this vilayet; and their arrival cannot fail to accentuate the general destitution and need.

A party of eleven men from Constantinople, who were on their way to Kharput, were robbed, I am told, near Tokat, a week or two ago, of part of their clothing, as well as of what little money they had about them. They were escorted at the time by two mounted zaptiehs, who made no effort to protect them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 198.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 345. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 7, 1896.*

HAVING had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 173 and 174, I called yesterday upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had some conversation with his Excellency on the subject of the introduction of reforms in the administration of Turkey.

Count Goluchowski told me that his present attitude was one of observation and of study. He was quite ready, as he had already informed Sir Edmund Monson and myself, to allow the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to join his colleagues at Constantinople in consulting upon the question, and as to the course to be pursued, but he had the most decided objection to the Ambassadors taking any action, that is to say, making any further proposals for the introduction of reforms, unless a distinct understanding were come to beforehand between the Powers that they should insist upon the Porte's duly executing whatever might be agreed upon, even by recourse to force, should such extreme measures be found to be necessary. If this were not done it would be far better that no further action should be initiated at all, for otherwise the Powers would merely become a laughing-stock to all the world.

On the other hand, were the Powers to agree upon the mode of enforcing their will, he felt sure that the Sultan would at once give way, and that the actual adoption of coercive measures would probably not be necessary, but he was most strongly opposed to the Powers exposing themselves to the possibility of a further rebuff from His Imperial Majesty.

I remarked to his Excellency that from what he had said I was glad to see that his views seemed to coincide so closely with those entertained by your Lordship, as expressed in your despatch No. 123 of the 20th ultimo, but that I was afraid they appeared hardly to be shared by the Russian Government, upon which he replied that before the Emperor's return to St. Petersburgh M. Chichkine had been unable to speak with any authority, and that since then he had received no distinct statement as to the policy of the Russian Government. He evidently feared, however, that there was but little ground to hope that the views of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh in regard to an energetic policy in Turkey had undergone any modification.

Turning then to the Russian project for the reform of the financial administration of Turkey, Count Goluchowski remarked that the financial question naturally came under the whole question of reform, as contained in your Lordship's proposals. He was quite ready to give his assent to its discussion, but upon the condition that the financial reforms proposed by Russia were seriously intended, but he told me frankly that he should have the greatest objection to countenancing any such project if it was merely meant to serve the interests of Paris bankers, and to enable them to make a great financial *coup*.

Before concluding his remarks, Count Goluchowski alluded to M. Hanotaux and his recent speech, saying that he appeared to be rather sanguine, and to be suffering from the illusion that M. Chichkine was completely under his influence and that of the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 199.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 351. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 12, 1896.*

DURING the conversation which I recently had with Count Nigra, recorded in my despatch No. 340 of the 8th instant, his Excellency, having alluded to your Lordship's proposals for the introduction of reforms in the administration of Turkey, said that, even if the Russian Government should agree to the discussion of the reforms, he could not bring himself to believe that they would ever give their consent to the execution of measures of coercion against the Porte, should such be found to be necessary.

A similar remark was made to me by M. de Kalláy, upon whom I called a day or two later, and who, after repeating his belief that the introduction of reforms upon a European model in Turkey was impossible of realization, went on to say that, in his opinion—though he hoped he might be mistaken—Russia would never agree to any such measures. She might, indeed, consent to their discussion, but even if they should be decided upon by all the Powers, she would always find means to prevent their execution. He could not blame Russia for such a policy, for it was manifestly in their interest to keep the Turkish Empire in a state of fermentation until the moment when she could step in unhampered by any arrangement with the other Powers, but he firmly believed that this was the object of the Russian Government, from which they would not allow themselves to be diverted.

M. de Kalláy then proceeded to express his opinion that nothing was to be expected from the joint action of the Great Powers. Up to the present nothing had been achieved; the reforms in Armenia were a dead letter, while even as regards Crete, matters were still far from being settled. The only result, in short, which had been obtained by the so-called unanimity of the Powers, had been to throw the Sultan into the arms of Russia.

The only solution of the Turkish difficulties, M. de Kalláy went on to say, would be that they should be taken in hand by one Power alone, or perhaps in co-operation with one other Power. If, for example, an agreement were to be come to between Russia and England, or, again, between Russia and Austria, it was reasonable to suppose that the remaining countries would be unable to withhold their assent, but from the action of the united Powers together never would any satisfactory result be obtained.

Upon my remarking that it was generally admitted that any such isolated action might lead to a European war, his Excellency replied that he did not believe it, and that, on the contrary, the perpetual conferences between the Powers, or the eventuality of a Congress to settle the Eastern question, would be far more likely, sooner or later, to raise a general conflagration.

M. de Kalláy asked me, of course, to look upon his remarks as a private conversation between friends, adding that he had nothing to do with the direction of foreign affairs; at the same time, he begged me not to regard what he had said as the views of a mere idealist, but, on the contrary, as those of a man who had considerable acquaintance with affairs in the East, and continued to devote the closest attention to their development.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 200.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 355.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 13, 1896.*

DURING a visit which I paid yesterday to Count Goluchowski, his Excellency informed me that he had received no further news respecting the proposed conferences of the Ambassadors at Constantinople on the subject of reforms to be introduced in the administration of Turkey, and that he had heard nothing from the Russian Government in regard to their project for taking in hand the financial question. He was, therefore, waiting for further information, and, in the meantime, Baron Calice had left Constantinople for about ten days in order to accompany his family to Egypt.

Count Goluchowski then went on to allude to your Lordship's speech at the Guildhall, and spoke in terms of great satisfaction at your remarks upon the necessity of unanimity on the part of all the Powers, adding that, in his opinion, your Lordship had acted very rightly in stating in plain terms that Her Majesty's Government saw no cause for relinquishing any territory at present occupied by Great Britain. His Excellency concluded by saying that he had just received a telegram from St. Petersburgh, stating that in Russia, too, your Lordship's speech had made a very favourable impression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 201.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 362. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 15, 1896.*

COUNT SZECSEN, one of the Under-Secretaries at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw this afternoon, told me that a telegram had been received from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh to the effect that M. Witte, the Russian Minister of Finance, was opposed to the French propositions for reorganizing the financial administration of Turkey. He did not know upon what ground the objections of the Russian Finance Minister were based, and could only attribute them to the fact that such a reorganization, if duly carried out, would go further to improve the general condition of the Ottoman Empire than was probably wished for by the Russian Government, for it was evident that Russia's real desire was to see the situation in Turkey gradually drift on from bad to worse.

Reverting to the proposals of financial reforms, Count Szécsen repeated what had already been said to me by Count Goluchowski, that he hardly saw how the Sultan was to be induced to consent to such reforms being really carried out without the threat, at least, of recourse being had to coercion, should His Majesty prove recalcitrant. Russia, however, would, he thought, never agree to exercising pressure of this kind, and he was consequently far from sanguine as to any satisfactory result being obtained.

Count Szécsen, independently of the position he holds at the Ministry, is on terms of particular intimacy with Count Goluchowski, and the views he expresses may therefore be taken as accurately representing those of his official chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 202.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 468.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 19, 1896, 6·40 P.M.*

THE Extraordinary Tribunal, which was instituted for the purpose of trying those implicated in the recent disturbances, has been dissolved. Its last sentence was one of death on the Bishop of Hasskeni. Its decisions are to be revised by the Court of Cassation.

No. 203.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 470.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 19, 1896, 7 P.M.*

The Armenian National Assembly has elected Mgr. Ormanian, a Prelate of moderate views, as Patriarch. The revision of the Organic Statute of the Patriarchate, commonly called the Armenian Constitution, has also been accepted in principle by them.

No. 204.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 20, 1896, 11·15 A.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 223 of the 19th instant.

Figures obtained by the French Embassy show that since the disorders which took place here in August 231 Armenians have been tried by the Extraordinary Tribunal, of whom 17 were condemned to death, 69 to imprisonment with hard labour or to perpetual imprisonment in a fortress, 10 to various terms of imprisonment, and 135 acquitted. During the same period 132 Mussulmans have been brought before the Tribunal, of whom 78 were sentenced to a few months' imprisonment, one condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment for murder, and the rest acquitted.

The Sultan has ordered that the sentences which the Extraordinary Tribunal passed on Monday should be cancelled, including the condemnation of the Bishop of Hasskeni.

I also hear from the French Embassy that 265 Armenians are now in prison in Constantinople, ten of whom are women; they are charged with being implicated in the last outbreak. The Palace has promised that they shall be speedily tried by the ordinary Tribunals.

No. 205.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 20, 1896.*

THE information contained in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 180 and 181 has also been received by Count Goluchowski.

His Excellency, while not surprised at the unwillingness of Russia to agree to coercive measures, himself insists on the inutility of pressing for further reforms upon the Sultan, until a previous understanding has been come to by the Powers that their execution will be enforced.

No. 206.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 357. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 19, 1896.*

I CALLED yesterday afternoon on M. Hanotaux.

His Excellency said he had received a telegram from M. Cambon, stating that Her Majesty's Ambassador had already carried out your Lordship's instruction, and had urged the Porte to execute the reforms promised by the Sultan, and he begged me to express to your Lordship his thanks for the timely assistance thus rendered by Sir Philip Currie to his French colleague.

Pointing to a paper lying on his table, M. Hanotaux said that it was a copy of the Iradé, authorizing the closing of the Extraordinary Tribunal, and he hoped to hear within the next twenty-four hours that the door of this dangerous Court had been finally closed, and that the legal procedure at Constantinople would be put once more on a normal footing.

He had further received satisfactory information as to the liberation of Armenians detained in prison. Out of some 1,900 prisoners, all except sixty had now been set at liberty.

Steps were already being taken for the election of the Armenian Patriarch; and M. Cambon had been instructed to do all that was possible to insist on the due execution of the other concessions promised by the Sultan.

If M. Cambon's endeavours in this direction are cordially supported by all the other Representatives, M. Hanotaux has every hope that these reforms will be adequately carried out, and the "bleeding wounds" of Turkey staunched. This, he said, was the pressing and immediate duty of all the Powers.

I asked his Excellency what he had learnt, during the past week, as to the scheme of financial pressure to which he had alluded at our interview on the 11th instant.

M. Hanotaux said that as to this he was waiting to hear what the Powers, and especially your Lordship, had to say to his suggestion. Her Majesty's Government had made most praiseworthy efforts to carry through a scheme of reform, but, to his regret, without any great success. He hoped that England was not going to retire to her tent, and merely look on as a spectator at a similar effort now being made by France, but would cordially co-operate with this country and all the Powers in carrying through their common programme.

I assured M. Hanotaux that no one could be more desirous than Her Majesty's Ambassador to see the reforms carried out, and that instructions in this sense, as he himself knew, had quite recently been again forwarded to his Excellency.

M. Hanotaux replied this was so, but that he was most anxious that none of the Powers should advance the Sultan the smallest sum till His Majesty prove his good-will and earnestness in executing the promises he had made to M. Cambon.

This remark gave me an opportunity of inquiring what news he had received from Count de Montebello with regard to the views of the Russian Government on the proposed financial operations.

M. Hanotaux replied that he hoped to be able to induce the Russian Government to accept "some sort of financial reform," on the condition that nothing in the shape of a *condominium* should be set up at Constantinople.

From the whole tone of his Excellency's remarks I gathered, however, that he is decidedly less sanguine of effecting any lasting improvement in the state of the Turkish Empire than he was last week, when still under the influence of the Parliamentary success which he achieved in the French Chamber on the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 207.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 474.) *Constantinople, November 21, 1896, 1·30 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received the following details as to the number of Armenians in prison in the provinces, and have communicated them to the French Ambassador:—

Erzeroum: 168 in prison, of whom 43 are untried.

Sivas: 5 released, 3 condemned since 1st November. Fresh trial ordered for 20 already condemned.

Diarbekir: 23 in prison, of whom 12 are condemned and 4 acquitted in July, but still detained.

No. 208.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 252.) *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 61 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that Count de Montebello told me confidentially last night that his sudden return was due ostensibly to the President's wish that he should present in person his letter thanking the Emperor for his visit to France, but that he also wanted him to report how matters stood here, and to watch the result of M. de Nélidoff's visit. He thought it possible that M. de Nélidoff was summoned to give the Emperor his opinion on the general situation of affairs at Constantinople, and that he might eventually be appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, for he knew that the Emperor had not mentioned M. Chichkine's name in Paris when talking of Prince Lobanoff's possible successor.

As regarded the Franco-Russian proposal respecting the extension of the sphere of action of the Commission of the Ottoman Public Debt, he thought the chief

difficulty was the appointment of a Russian Delegate, which would not be overcome apparently by even including therein the war indemnity due to Russia, as M. Witte was strongly opposed to it under any conditions.

Although Count de Montebello did not say so, it is generally believed that M. de Nélidoff is also opposed to the appointment of a Russian Delegate, and that the object of the French Ambassador's hurried return is to counteract as far as possible the influence of both the Minister of Finance and M. de Nélidoff in this respect.

M. de Montebello was received in private audience by the Emperor on the 10th instant, but he did not allude to the subject during our conversation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 209.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 253. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1896.*

I HAVE already had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of M. Chichkine's reply to your Lordship's proposal of the 20th ultimo.

In placing the matter before his Excellency, I said that I hoped his assurances of the pleasure with which he had read your Lordship's Guildhall speech would tend to recommend the present proposal, which was, in fact, very little different from the observations he had himself made to me on various occasions.

If, as he believed, the mere fact that the Powers were acting together would be sufficient to frighten the Sultan into compliance with any reasonable demands without recourse to coercitive measures, your Lordship would be only too pleased, but, at the same time, I reminded him that he seemed to have lost all faith in the Sultan's promises, whether verbal or written, and to be of opinion that, unless he really knew that their violation would be attended with serious consequences, nothing would be done and no progress made. As regards his fear that the threat of coercitive measures would weaken the authority of the Sultan, he had admitted that his authority was so powerful over his Mussulman subjects that he had been able to stop the massacre at Constantinople, and to restore order without the slightest difficulty when he thought further excesses might endanger his Throne. It did not seem, therefore, probable that your Lordship's proposal would seriously loosen his authority. On the contrary, I thought there was far more danger of a series of fresh outrages if the Powers did not agree upon some common and energetic action. I earnestly hoped, therefore, that his Excellency would regard your Lordship's proposal not only in the light of contributing to bring about a better and most valuable understanding between England and Russia in regard to affairs in the East, but also as opening possibly the road to a practical solution of this vexed question compatible with the interests as well as with the civilizing mission of the united Powers.

M. Chichkine admitted that, in point of fact, there was now no great divergence of views between the two Governments, but at the same time he could not agree, at the present moment at all events, to the employment, even conditionally, of coercitive measures.

I did not think it advisable to press his Excellency further for the moment, as he seemed to be well disposed towards the proposal, yet to be haunted by the fear that its acceptance would not be well received in the country, or that perhaps it was not on the lines of Prince Lobanoff's policy which he had been instructed, or wishes to follow as closely as possible.

Once or twice during the conversation he referred to old scores, and tried to enter into a discussion as to the anti-Russian policy of England for the last thirty years, during which, he said, we had invariably treated the Russians "comme des voleurs" in every corner of the earth.

I declined to follow his Excellency on to this ground, which could only, I said, lead us further from the matter in hand. He gradually calmed down, however, and said that he was overworked, and that he was neither Secretary nor Under-Secretary of State.

Before leaving I endeavoured to find out whether he had received definite instructions from the Emperor since Mr. Goschen had first mentioned the proposal to him,

ind I was not very successful, and I could only conclude that his reply ought not to be taken as yet as absolutely final.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 210.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury. – (*Received November* 23.)

(No. 260.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 18, 1896.
My Lord,

I TOOK advantage of an interview with M. Chichkine on the 10th instant to read to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 195 of the 13th instant.

His Excellency hardly attempted to answer your Lordship's arguments replying to his previous remarks, and seemed to admit that perhaps the proposal was probably the only effectual means of putting the necessary pressure upon the Sultan. But as he had an audience next morning, and the Emperor read English as easily as Russian, he would like to give His Majesty a copy of your Lordship's telegram, and would let me know the result. In compliance with his request, I sent him the same evening a paraphrase of it, and called this afternoon, which is his usual reception day. He informed me that the Emperor had read very carefully your Lordship's telegram, but that he had told him it was impossible for him to agree to coercive measures against the Sultan, and that as he was himself the only other absolute Sovereign in Europe, it was still more difficult to strike in this way at the Sultan's authority.

As I had already used such arguments as I thought most likely to be effective for the desired end, and had pointed out that the fact that your Lordship had made it a stipulation that the reforms should be unanimously accepted by the Ambassadors before coming into execution, left to each Power the option of objecting to any special proposal that seemed opposed to its interests. I did not attempt to continue the discussion, and contented myself by saying that I would telegraph to your Lordship what he had said.

Before leaving, however, I asked his Excellency how it had fared with the French proposal respecting the Ottoman Public Debt and the financial administration.

M. Chichkine replied that there were so many difficulties in the way of its execution that this proposal had, he was afraid, also fallen through.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 211.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 261.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 18, 1896.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch reporting the refusal of the Russian Government to accept your Lordship's proposal of the 20th ultimo, there does not seem to be much doubt that this result has been attained by the pressure of the Minister of Finance, and those who share with him the idea that it is not in the interest of Russia to allow Constantinople to be placed under an European condominium, and that the same influences have been brought to bear to upset the French proposal respecting the Public Debt, which only ten days ago M. Chichkine spoke of as in great measure his own offspring.

After seeing M. Chichkine to-day I called upon M. de Nélidoff, who, I was aware, had also been received by the Emperor yesterday. He talked both of your Lordship's and of the French proposal, and hardly concealed his opinion that he did not think either of them would be feasible or meet the necessity of the situation. On the other hand, he did not seem to know what could be done towards this object, and appeared to be of opinion that any violent action would produce a fanatical outbreak on the part of the Mahommedans, and be attended with the greatest danger. Perhaps the best course, and possibly the only course, was for the Powers to act in concert to neutralize by their influence any particularly unwise action contemplated by the

Sultan, and to hope from day to day for an improved state of things. He believed that a complete convulsion throughout the Ottoman Empire was imminent, and probably inevitable, and that no steps the Powers took short of the most drastic measures would prevent this cataclysm.

Looking upon this as inevitable, he thought the wisest thing for the Powers to do would be to consult together as to the steps to be taken when the decomposition which he foresees is complete and the crisis arrives. He is not sanguine, however, that any of the Powers will be willing to tackle this question beforehand, or until the development of events forces it upon them. But he sees no other course, and he can only hope that his views of the situation of affairs, which are entirely personal, will be falsified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 212.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 263.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 19, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation by Mr. Michell of an article which appeared in the "St. Petersburgh Gazette" last week criticizing, in a hostile spirit, the French proposal for the appointment of a Russian Representative to the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt. The writer declares that the establishment of an international control over Turkish finances would only benefit Jewish bankers, and that Russia, though nominally gaining annually an increased sum from the Turkish war indemnity, would eventually be a loser, as she would sacrifice her independence as regards Turkey, for which she has so long struggled.

Russian diplomacy has now succeeded in isolating Turkey from the other Powers, and it is to Russia she must now turn. The article concludes by saying that if Turkey is created into a State embodying European interests, Russia will have to encounter in the Straits not Turkey alone but Europe, as was the case in 1853.

The article has attracted considerable importance, as it is said to have been inspired by M. de Witte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Extract from the "St. Petersburgh Gazette" of November 1 (13), 1896.

(Translation.)

SMALL paragraphs have within the last few days appeared in the press, especially in the French newspapers, to the effect that Russia has consented to appoint a Representative to the Council of the Ottoman Debt at Constantinople.

It would at first sight appear as if such an appointment is desirable, and that the influence of Russia on Turkish affairs would by such means be increased.

The European press endeavours to represent the matter in this very light, declaring at the same time that all the ills of Turkey proceed from her impecuniosity, and that the salvation of Turkey depends alone on the proper organization of her finances.

In order to attain this end, the necessity is suggested of taking in hand the financial administration of the country, the natural riches of which are so great that their judicious exploitation would completely remove the threatening danger of the final dissolution of Turkey.

Let us consider, however, what the assumption of the financial administration of the Turkish Empire really means. It signifies the establishment of international control over Turkish finances (as in Egypt), and the absence hitherto of a Russian Delegate in the Council of Bondholders is considered to be the first and main obstacle to the conversion of this Council into an international institution; hence the efforts of the European Governments, especially that of France, to secure the participation of Russia in the Council in question.

What advantage, however, would Russia obtain from this?

The benefit to Europe, and especially to the European Jewish bankers, is evident. Russia has never officially recognized the Council of Bondholders which administers the revenues given as security by the Turkish Government for the loans obtained by it from European Jewish bankers. The latter, foreseeing the inevitable bankruptcy, if not final collapse, of the Turkish Empire, are at present directing all their efforts towards placing Russia in a position in which her interests would become quasi-solidary with their own. It is for this that the presence of a Russian Delegate in the Council of Bondholders is necessary. In reward Russia is promised the regular payment of the military indemnity for the last war, *i.e.*, she will annually receive 3,000,000 paper roubles. As Russia during the last years received from Turkey only somewhat over 2,000,000 roubles, she would, under the new arrangement, benefit by nearly 1,000,000 roubles annually. What would, however, her losses be under the circumstances?

The European Jewish bankers are afraid to allow Russia to retain the independent position in Turkish affairs she has acquired: they fear to encounter a Russia perfectly independent of them at a possible final settlement of accounts, and seek by every means, now perhaps at the last moment, to secure their own fate by obtaining the adhesion of Russia to their interests.

We ask again what benefit would Russia derive from such a new transposition of the Eastern question besides acquiring the extra million above alluded to? In a political sense, what would Russia gain?

The whole policy of Russia since the last war has been directed towards the exclusion, so far as possible, of the interference of Europe in the affairs, and, consequently, the fate of Turkey.

Russian diplomacy has succeeded in preventing the adhesion of the Sultan to the Triple Alliance during the period of its greatest political strength. We, fortunately, were able to isolate Turkey from England (the latter has lost all prestige in the eyes of the Turkish Government), and, as a result, Russia remains face to face with Turkey. The latter finding no support in any of the European Powers, and feeling her complete dependence on Russia, will doubtlessly execute all her demands, and perhaps, comparatively, soon place herself completely at her disposal.

The Western Powers thoroughly understand this new phase of the Eastern question, have recognized in it the predominant position of Russia, and endeavour to create in the place of Turkey a State embodying European interests, so that, in the event of a reckoning of accounts, Russia should encounter in the Straits not Turkey, but Europe, as was the case in 1853.

The first step towards the attainment of this object is the appointment of a Russian Delegate to the administration of the Ottoman Debt.

Surely two hundred years of constant struggle, enormous efforts and incalculable sacrifices made by Russia for securing exclusive domination over the Black Sea, and a free exit to the Mediterranean, will not result in a failure to establish Russian security in the Black Sea, the exit out of and entrance into which of all would be made dependent on the wishes of Jewish bankers.

No. 213.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 355 Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November 20, 1896.*

IN an interview I had with Baron von Marschall this afternoon the conversation turned upon the question of Turkish reforms, and I told his Excellency that your Lordship had communicated to me Sir N. O'Conor's telegram, stating that the Russian Government were unable to agree to the French proposal with regard to the Ottoman Public Debt. I said that, if I understood the matter correctly, M. Chichkine had approved of the proposal, and had even put it forward as the proposal of the Russian Government, but that M. Witte had strongly opposed it, and had carried the day.

Baron von Marschall replied that it was the case that M. Chichkine had been in favour of the proposal, whilst M. Witte and M. de Nélidoff had opposed it, but the Russian Ambassador here had not made any official communication on the subject, and the proposal had not therefore been presented as coming from the Russian Government. It was significant that the refusal to entertain the French proposal should have

come from the Russian Government so soon after the Imperial visit to Paris, but it was a serious matter that there should be no Minister for Foreign Affairs in Russia at this moment, and that M. Chichkine should apparently have so little influence in the conduct of foreign affairs. His Excellency added that this incident, coupled with the unwillingness of the Emperor of Russia to agree to any proposal implying coercion against the Sultan, was a proof of the great difficulty, if not impossibility, of obtaining unanimity on the part of the Six Powers, and it was to be feared that nothing would be done.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 214.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 475.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 23, 1896, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's private telegram of the 21st instant.

The Bishop of Hasskeni was condemned by the Extraordinary Tribunal after the date on which the Sultan had promised M. Cambon that it should be dissolved. His Majesty has consequently ordered the Court of Cassation to quash the sentence, with others delivered on the same day.

The Bishop of Bitlis was condemned to death by the local Court. The Court of Cassation confirmed the sentence, and it is now before the Sultan, but will no doubt be commuted.

No. 215.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 67.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1896.*

THE Emperor received Count de Montebello, who returns to Paris to-day, at Peterhof yesterday. He was told by His Majesty that there were serious objections to the acceptance of the French financial proposal, though portions of it might be incorporated in the recommendations made to the Sultan by the Powers.

But his Excellency considered that the scheme had collapsed.

Your Lordship's proposal was not alluded to by His Majesty, but M. Chichkine, whom Count de Montebello also saw at the Palace, spoke as if its rejection was not definitely settled on.

I have heard from other sources that an inclination to meet your Lordship's views as far as possible is increasing.

To-morrow I hope to have an interview with M. Chichkine.

No. 216.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 476.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 24, 1896, 2·10 P.M.*

MY despatch of the 5th June, No. 440.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul telegraphs from Kharput that three Turkish villages have been attacked and burnt by the Kiau tribe of Kizilbash Kurds of Agchatagh, numbering, it is said, 15,000 men, and many Turks have been killed in revenge for the massacre which Mr. Fontana reported in his despatch No. 15, inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch.

Troops have been sent from Malatia against them.

No. 217.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 942. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the proposed migration of the El Hanadi tribe to Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 45. Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, October 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a few days ago seven principal Arabs of the tribe of El Hanadi reached this place with the avowed object of purchasing a village on the borders of the desert to the east or north-east of Damascus, in order that the tribe might emigrate from the Soudan and take up their residence in this country. They have now left for Hamah without having settled anything.

I made inquiries with regard to this tribe, of which I have no personal knowledge, and all that I could learn is that it is an Arab tribe residing between the Egyptian border and the country occupied by the Khalifa, and that it numbers from 30,000 to 40,000 persons. Such was the description given to me, and I have no means of ascertaining how far the statement is true.

These Sheikhs were furnished with bank bills for a considerable amount, and the person who was acting as agent for them is a lawyer in the employ of the French Beyrout-Damascus-Mezerib Railway Company. I have reason to believe that he was acting on instructions given by his superiors.

According to the Sheikhs' account their lands had largely increased in value, and consequently they had seized the opportunity to sell them, and were desirous of settling where they could buy sufficient land for a smaller amount. This explanation strikes me as improbable to the last degree.

The local authorities have stated that there is no objection to this tribe buying any land they may require, and it is presumed that they are now negotiating a purchase at Hamah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 218.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 943.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the non-execution of reforms and the difficulties encountered by the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 109.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 29, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that no special steps are being taken here to carry out reforms in consequence of the orders telegraphed from the Palace to that effect. In the way of ordinary administration, however, the Vali of Erzeroum continues to do his best in the face of very great difficulties, and, thanks to his efforts, it may safely be said that the state of this vilayet compares favourably with that of the surrounding provinces.

If Raouf Pasha were only allowed a free hand, I have no doubt that the results obtained by him would be still more satisfactory. The principal difficulties with which he has to contend at present appear to me to be—

1. The bankrupt condition of the Treasury, which has been brought about by the excessive expenditure for military charges, which swallow up nearly all the local revenue, and by the ruin of the Christian population, who were the most productive and progressive element in the country, and the best tax-payers.

2. The reactionary attitude of the Mushir Zekki Pasha, commanding the 4th Army Corps at Erzingian, and his opposition to any attempt to interfere with his protégés, the Kurds. The Articles of the Scheme of Reforms dealing with the Hamidiyé Kurds remain a dead letter on this account.

3. The failure of the Porte to give effect to the reasonable recommendations of the Vali, especially with regard to the removal from their posts of incapable or corrupt Kaimakams now serving in this province.

4. The continued activity of agents of the Armenian Revolutionary Societies, the only result of which must be to keep public opinion unsettled, and to render impossible for the present the relaxation of the severe repressive measures now in force.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegraph to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 219.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 944.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 13, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, relating the sequel of the attack by the Turks upon the Armenians reported in my despatch No. 855 of the 20th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Angora, November 9, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 15th ultimo, giving further details concerning the punishment which it was proposed to inflict on those Turks who took a prominent part in the attack on Armenians of the 18th September, I have now the honour to report to your Excellency as follows:—

The three Turks who were condemned by the Court of First Instance to six months' imprisonment appealed against this sentence, whereupon it was reduced by the Court of Appeal (Istinaf) to one of one week (!), with a fine of 75 piastres.

Three others were released for want of evidence, although it is well known that one of them, at all events, a certain Haj Séid Mehemet, severely wounded a young

Armenian Catholic in the hand. No one, however, was forthcoming to give evidence to that effect.

Ali Bey, the Professor, who fired off his revolver, and so was in reality the cause of the whole disturbance, has been released.

Vasfi Bey, the Lieutenant, who killed the Turk in the manner previously reported, is still in prison. I am assured that he would have been condemned by the Court to ten years' imprisonment had the case been allowed to follow the usual course, but the administrative authorities have interfered as they always do when it suits them, in spite of the much vaunted independence of the Courts—and referred the matter to Constantinople, with what result is not yet known.

There are one or two others still in prison, but I understand that they will shortly be released.

In fact, the whole thing has been an utter farce in spite of the seeming energy of the Vali and his alleged determination to punish all concerned with the utmost rigour of the law.

The only persons really punished are the two zaptiehs, who, according to trustworthy accounts, were not to blame, in that they merely obeyed the orders of their superior officer, who, as stated in the previous despatch on this subject, was acquitted for want of evidence!

It should also be noted that the only really severe sentence—that of ten years' imprisonment—which it was intended to pass on Vasfi Bey has not been so passed, and even had the law been allowed to take its course, the offence which it was proposed to punish was that of killing a Turk! No further comment is necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 220.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 945.) *Constantinople, November 13, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting on the departure of Shakir Pasha, the prospect of reforms, and the financial difficulties of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 57.) *Bitlis, October 26, 1896.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that Shakir Pasha left Bitlis on the 24th instant for Diarbekir viâ Sairt and Mardin, in each of which latter two places he will probably spend some days.

In addition to the matters reported in my despatch above referred to, Shakir Pasha told me that he was occupied with the question of the new arrangements for Nahiés, but except what, as I have already reported, has been decided by him for the Moush Sandjak, no decision in regard to these arrangements has, so far as I can learn, been arrived at for the Bitlis Vilayet.

Shakir Pasha told me at Moush that it would be desirable to have a functionary specially charged with the duty of receiving complaints with regard to title-deeds and to the possession of landed property, but, in connection with these complaints, or with the revision of title-deeds, nothing in the way of reform appears to have been done, or to be for the present likely to be done, in this vilayet.

There does not appear to be any present prospect of the appointment of Christian Kaïmakams or of Christian Mouavins for liras and cazas in the vilayet.

Shakir Pasha and his three assistants, with each of whom I had a separate conversation, all made the same remark, that the events in Constantinople had "spoilt

everything," and that, but for those events, large measures in the direction of amnesty would have been taken.

However, six Armenians were released from Bitlis prison on the day after Shakir Pasha's departure, and five were released a week before his arrival. All the eleven were accused or suspected of political offences. None of them had been brought to trial. The six who were released after the Pasha's departure had been in prison about a year, having been arrested shortly after the massacre. The remaining five had been in prison for the last seven or eight months.

Three Armenians, including a local Notable named Avedis Effendi, remain in prison here awaiting trial. They appear to be all accused of complicity in the murder of a spy named Hatchig, who was shot here on the 28th August last. Avedis Effendi was arrested shortly before the murder. He had refused to pay certain taxes due from him, which he was well able to pay, being one of the richest Armenians in Bitlis. It is explained that he had a claim on the Government for the rent of certain buildings, and that he refused to pay his taxes until the claim was satisfied. He has for a long time past been in bad odour with the local authorities.

Hatchig, the spy, appears to have been murdered under the following circumstances. He was going home alone in the dusk on the evening of the 28th August, when two men stopped him in the street, and one of them shot him with a revolver. He received two bullets in his body. The two men made their escape. Police came up, which, according to their own statement, took from Hatchig his dying declaration that the man who shot him was one Mukhtar Hovsep. Hovsep is now in prison, making in all four Armenians in prison for the Hatchig affair, and, according to the official version, informed the Government that Avedis Effendi had promised him money if he would kill Hatchig, and this seems to be the chief evidence against Avedis Effendi.

A letter, however, has, it is said, been received by the Government signed by two young men, well known in Bitlis, in which they say that Hovsep and Avedis are innocent, and that they themselves had killed Hatchig, and would kill two more spies. The two young men are said to be hiding in some place which is unknown to the authorities. It is also said that witnesses who saw the murder from their houses can prove that the two young men were the sole perpetrators.

Avedis Effendi is further, as I understand, accused of complicity in the wounding of another supposed spy, who last November was stabbed, but not mortally, for which affair three persons are undergoing sentences, two of fifteen years', and the third of one year's imprisonment. It appears that these convicts, or at any rate one of them, informed the Government that Avedis Effendi had invited them to have their names inscribed on the list of revolutionists.

Mavrogordato Effendi, the Christian Mouavin of Shakir Pasha, told me that it seemed impossible to release Avedis in the face of this evidence. He should be brought to trial, but every facility, said Mavrogordato Effendi, would be given him for his defence.

Against the two other persons who are accused of complicity in the murder of Hatchig there appears to be some evidence of the same kind as that against Avedis Effendi, and they are all to be tried. The case against Hovsep, accused of the actual murder, is perhaps stronger.

The release of the eleven prisoners has made a good impression on the Armenian population, but Shakir Pasha is generally considered to have done very little here. Taxes were being rigorously collected during the whole time of his stay. I have it on the best authority that till within three days of his departure Shakir Pasha had in vain been trying to get from the local Treasury 300 liras required for his future travelling expenses, and that the other members of his Commission were also seeking money due to them for their salaries and expenses. Shakir Pasha got 1,000 liras from the Treasury at Moush on the occasion of his visit there, and it may be presumed that at any rate the 300 liras for travelling expenses were raised here.

To prove that the present difficulties of the Government and former laxness in tax collecting justified the present rigour, a member of Shakir Pasha's Commission caused me to be supplied with three lists, copies of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, showing that large arrears of taxes are due in the vilayet from former years, and that of the taxes to be collected for the present financial year only about a quarter had been actually collected down to the end of August.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

P.S.—Since writing the above despatch I have received your Excellency's telegram of to-day's date. I do not as yet know of any sufficient reason for adding to or modifying the statements which I have made in this despatch, but to-day a report reached me that a Turk of good position here had said that something good for the Armenians was to be announced in three or four days.

J. H. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

STATEMENT of Taxes to be collected in Bitlis Vilayet for the Financial Year 1312.

	Guenj Sandjak.		Sairt Sandjak.		Mousch Sandjak.		Beli's Sandjak.		Totals.	
	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.
Land tax ("Arazi-i-emlaki-sakar")	746,917	50	690,111	33	910,617	25	167,353	37	2,444,991	5
Tenettu	1,0[illegible]	10	166,495	0	146,[illegible]	20	161,270	10	913,175	80
Exemption from military service ..	2,0[illegible]	1	581,621	52	1,377,228	19	701,771	1	2,660,956	13
Sheep	141,118	0	527,404	74	995,573	0	529,422	0	2,187,817	26
Tithes	532,782	50	1,160,925	0	2,393,[illegible]	10	987,851	16	4,812,609	16
Miscellaneous	1,171	10	59,175	0	42,[illegible]	20	35,329	0	117,[illegible]	30
Stamps, &c., of taxing papers ("Damga-i-sakarî") ..	10,212	20	20,522	0	14,[illegible]	20	13,[illegible]	0	[illegible]	6
Totals	1,674,886	11	3,241,455	5	5,661,217	34	2,919,429	24	13,195,598	34

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

STATEMENT of Taxes, &c., actually collected in Bitlis Vilayet from the 1st March to the 31st August, 1312.

	Guenj Sandjak.		Sairt Sandjak.		Mousch Sandjak.		Bitlis Sandjak.		Totals.	
	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.
Land tax ("Arazi-i-emlaki-sakar")	57,664	2	154,215	6	233,112	35	136,2[illegible]	25	581,[illegible]	28
Tenettu	14,162	20	71,[illegible]	53	10,412	15	60,119	10	155,644	38
Exemption from military service ..	6,310	10	46,[illegible]	30	382,856	20	86,940	34	522,153	14
Sheep	361,454	20	416,661	24	256,[illegible]	30	101,[illegible]	1	1,[illegible]	4
Tithes			22,912	0	71,[illegible]	10	14,295	7	159,[illegible]	17
Makto tithes			..		..		..		[illegible]	
"Emanet" tithes			..		..		..		2,[illegible]	0
Rent, &c., of Government lands ..			2,500	0	..		..		[illegible]	1
Miscellaneous	10	60	7,[illegible]	1	60,29	0	14,145	0	[illegible]	10
Stamps, &c., of taxing papers ("Damga-i-sakarîyeh")	190	20	1,[illegible]	0	2,[illegible]	25	4,[illegible]	5	[illegible]	
Totals	436,841	32	792,863	20	1,111,203	15	727,089	5	3,[illegible]	32

Inclosure 4 in No. 220.

STATEMENT of Arrears of Taxes due in Bitlis Vilayet for the below-mentioned financial years and remaining due down to March 1312.

	Land ("Arazi-i-emlaki-sakar").		Temettu.		Military Exemption.		Sheep.		Tithes.		Other Taxes.		Totals.	
	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.	Pcs.	P.
To end of year 1299 ..	11,035,677	8	..	..	4,911,240	35	4,950,282	38	12,987,200	7	1,222,927	2	35,098,138	0
,, ,, 1300 ..	1,017,031	21	..	..	214,371	7	506,554	10	1,027,677	36	33,288	1	2,819,725	35
,, ,, 1301 ..	938,217	15	..	..	268,316	25	358,208	37	497,084	20	39,320	35	2,111,147	24
,, ,, 1302 ..	1,[illegible]	27	..	..	2[illegible]	25	3[illegible]	35	6[illegible]	35	3[illegible]	5	2,[illegible]	21
,, ,, 1303 ..	1,188,455	6	..	..	265,474	24	412,930	37	610,892	22	34,959	31	2,503,132	6
Totals ..	15,016,029	2	..	..	5,877,369	27	6,982,791	39	15,591,173	8	1,373,401	34	44,833,836	0
,, ,, 1304 ..	1,241,987	36	..	..	564,122	5	111,214	6	186,881	15	59,469	30	2,761,795	39
,, ,, 1305 ..	1,311,426	0	..	..	446,348	12	310,530	11	806,597	6	45,663	20	3,254,625	9
,, ,, 1306 ..	1,320,632	17	..	..	521,211	5	338,464	35	863,648	11	25,419	22	3,089,105	10
,, ,, 1307 ..	1,207,531	13	..	..	458,410	16	330,845	27	570,855	38	36,276	32	2,624,168	14
,, ,, 1308 ..	849,825	28	430,785	34	473,122	7	360,203	25	183,208	0	18,747	8	2,081,210	22
Totals ..	20,079,450	3	129,385	34	8,145,011	1	8,947,827	31	18,866,003	38	1,559,029	26	59,237,031	14
,, ,, 1309 ..	976,340	13	484,309	34	725,252	21	131,236	15	168,166	20	41,852	4	3,124,247	27
,, ,, 1310 ..	1,085,786	16	523,392	0	1,000,023	19	487,598	15	716,803	25	53,865	32	4,020,326	27
,, ,, 1311 ..	1,246,766	2	666,118	36	1,724,209	28	759,349	10	2,956,909	9	51,651	4	7,405,004	7
Grand Totals. ..	24,568,281	34	2,132,706	24	11,679,639	30	10,486,262	31	22,744,370	12	1,759,398	26	73,540,659	37

No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 947.)

Constantinople, November 17, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to the French Ambassador on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 215 of the 13th instant, asking for particulars of the promises made to him by the Sultan, the execution of which I was instructed by your Lordship to join him in pressing for. I also inclose a copy of M. Cambon's reply.

In order to support the statement, made in my telegram No. 464 of yesterday, that with a few exceptions the same promises had been repeatedly made to Her Majesty's Embassy, I have had a Memorandum prepared showing the dates at which such promises were received.

Your Lordship will see from this paper that there are no grounds for considering the Sultan's promises to M. Cambon as a new departure justifying a change of policy on the part of the Powers towards the Turkish Government.

In compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram, I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

I also instructed Mr. Block, my first Dragoman, to support M. Cambon's representations at the Porte in language similar to that of my written communication. Tewfik Pasha took note of the declaration and promised to inform the Palace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to M. Cambon.

Mon cher Collègue,

Constantinople, le 15 Novembre, 1896.

SUR la demande de M. Hanotaux, Lord Salisbury m'a télégraphié l'ordre d'appuyer vos efforts pour obtenir une exécution entière et pratique des promesses que le Sultan vous a faites tout récemment. Tout ce que je sais de ces promesses c'est ce que vous m'en avez dit hier. Je vous prierais donc, pour me mettre à même d'exécuter mes instructions, de me donner des renseignements détaillés sur les promesses de Sa Majesté.

Je serais bien aise en même temps de savoir votre avis sur la meilleure manière de vous prêter concours.

Votre dévoué, &c.

(Signé) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

M. Cambon to Sir P. Currie.

Mon cher Collègue,

Ambassade de France, Péra, le 16 Novembre, 1896.

LE Sultan a promis—

1. La mise en liberté des détenus contre lesquels n'existe aucune charge.

2. Le licenciement du Tribunal Extraordinaire et le renvoi devant le Tribunal Ordinaire des affaires pendantes.

3. La révocation d'Anis Pacha, Vali de Diarbékir.

4. La poursuite immédiate et le jugement impartial du Colonel Mahsar Bey, auteur du meurtre du Père Salvatore.

5. L'envoi d'instructions à tous les Valis, Commandants Militaires, et au Ministre de la Police à Constantinople pour assurer la répression des désordres par les autorités régulières et empêcher à tout prix la populace d'intervenir.

6. La convocation de l'Assemblée Générale Arménienne et l'élection du Patriarche.

7. L'application des réformes et leur extension à tous les vilayets.

8. Toutes les facilités données pour la reconstruction et la réparation des établissements religieux détruits ou endommagés.

9. Toutes facilités données aux Comités Européens pour la distribution de secours aux victimes des derniers événements.

10. Autorisation aux malheureux dont les maisons ont été détruites de les reconstruire en prenant tout le bois nécessaire dans les forêts de l'Etat.

Plusieurs de ces promesses ont été réalisées. C'est ainsi que la procédure pour l'élection du Patriarche a été commencée, qu'Anis Pacha a été révoqué, que le Décret sur l'extension des réformes a été publié, que des ordres ont été envoyés pour couper court à l'intervention des particuliers en cas de nouvelles manifestations Arméniennes.

Des instructions ont été également adressées au Ministre de la Guerre pour la mise en jugement de Mahsar Bey, mais d'après les télégrammes de nos Consuls d'Alep et de Marashe aucune disposition n'a été prise jusqu'à présent et Mahsar Bey se promène librement.

Le Tribunal Extraordinaire fonctionne encore. Il aurait encore à juger 265 détenus dont 40 doivent comparaître aujourd'hui. Le Sultan cependant avait affirmé que le Tribunal ne siégerait plus cette semaine.

Quant à l'application des réformes dans les six vilayets vous avez les renseignements de vos Consuls.

Enfin le Palais m'a fait communiquer les chiffres ci-joints pour la mise en liberté des détenus. Je les fais vérifier là où j'ai des Consuls, et je vous serais reconnaissant d'en faire autant.

Quant aux démarches à faire à la Porte ou au Palais, je crois qu'il convient d'envoyer nos Premiers Drogmans le plus souvent possible demander compte des mesures non exécutées.

M. Rouet y va, en ce moment, tous les jours.

Votre, &c.

(Signé) P. CAMBON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 221.

Memorandum.

No. 1.—Liberation of Prisoners against whom no Charge exists.

MR. MARINITCH reported on the 20th August that he had been assured by the Grand Vizier and Izzet Bey that the Sultan had promised Mgr. Bartoloméos an amnesty for the Armenians.

According to the Sultan's message reported in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 874 of the 27th October, 1896, categorical orders were sent to hasten all trials, and to complete them in fifteen days; any Judge who did not execute these orders would be held responsible.

No. 2.—Dismissal of the Extraordinary Tribunal, and transfer of Cases pending before it to the Ordinary Courts.

This is new, but it can hardly be considered a concession, as it secures the impunity of the Mussulmans implicated in the massacres, of whom only one has been tried, while many Armenians have been condemned.

No. 3.—Recall of Ennis Pasha, Vali of Diarbekir.

No actual promise to this effect was ever given, but the French Embasy have been pressing for it vehemently for many months past with the occasional support of the other Embassies.

No. 4.—Trial and Punishment of Mashar Bey.

This only concerns the French and Italian Embassies.

No. 5.—Instructions to Valis, &c., for the regular and orderly Repression of Disturbances.

The transmission of these orders was reported to Her Majesty's Embassy on the 4th September, and various Consuls have announced their reception and promulgation on the spot (see Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 742 of the 17th September, 1896).

No. 6.—Convocation of the General Assembly, and Election of a Patriarch.

This was arranged some time since with Artin Pasha.

No. 7.—Application of the Reforms, and their Extension to all Vilayets.

The Sultan has repeatedly assured Her Majesty's Embassy that the reforms would be strictly carried out. Messages from His Majesty to this effect were reported in Mr. Herbert's despatches No. 780 of the 8th November, and No. 836 of the 21st November, 1895; these contained absolute promises that the reforms would be inaugurated without delay. They were further renewed on the 1st and 30th March (see Sir P. Currie's despatches No. 171 of the 2nd March, and No. 267 of the 6th April, 1896).

As for the extension of the reforms to the whole of Turkey, promises to this effect as regards the European provinces were reported in Sir P. Currie's despatches No. 299 of the 15th April, and No. 342 of the 29th April, 1896; in the latter of which the scheme promulgated for European Turkey was inclosed about the middle of September, the Sultan signed an Iradé, both for the execution of the reforms already conceded, and their extension to the rest of the Empire, and the text of these latter was inclosed in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 841 of the 14th October, 1896.

No. 8.—Reconstruction and Repair of Religious Establishments.

This does not concern Her Majesty's Embassy.

No. 9.—Facilities to be given to European Committees for the Distribution of Relief.

No general orders have ever been asked for on this point, but wherever interference with the relief operations had taken place, the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy for its removal have always been successful; this has occurred, amongst other places, at Bitlis, Marash, and Saird. Our Committee enjoys every facility for relief distribution.

No. 10. Grant of Timber from State Forests for Repairs.

This had not been previously promised to a foreign Embassy.

Inclosure 4 in No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to Tewfik Pasha.

(No. 123.)
M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, November 18, 1896.*

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to support the representations of the French Ambassador for the prompt and complete execution of the promises made to him on the occasion of his recent audience of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and subsequently communicated by the Ottoman Ambassador in Paris to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have accordingly the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government trust that the reforms and other measures mentioned in these assurances may be executed in their entirety and without loss of time.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 222.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 918.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that to-day's official Gazette announces the appointments of the following Christian assistants to Kaïmakams:—

Vilayet of Diarbekir: Palu—Melkor Saïd Effendi; Silouan—Natik Effendi, Notary of Masdin.

Vilayet of Kharput: Arabkir—Keshishian Gaspar Effendi; Charsanjak—Toutounayan Boghos Effendi.

Vilayet of Sivas: Gurun—Sukelian Souriak Paskal Effendi, formerly employé of the telegraph office; Marsouan—Christaki Effendi, Police Commissary of the 3rd Class.

Vilayet of Erzeroum: Keghi—Assadour Akarian Effendi, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Erzeroum; Baiburt—Lanitchortianika Effendi, Judge of the Court of First Instance at Erzeroum.

Vilayet of Van: Gavash—Garabet Effendi Chivan Bey Zade; Shattuck—Vartan Effendi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 223.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 952.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Angora, reporting on the arrest of certain Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 111.)
Sir, *Angora, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that three Armenians have been arrested here lately on suspicion of being connected with the revolutionary movement. One, whose name is Andronik Jevahirjian, is a photographer by trade, and though his native town is Sivas, he has been settled in Angora twelve years and more. The other two are Kotchoum Oghlou Kirkor and his son Toros, both natives of Gurun. However, Kirkor Kotchounian, the father, has just been released, and it is hoped that Toros will soon be set at liberty. I gather that though neither of these persons is likely to have had anything whatever to do with "Committee" work, no one seems inclined to vouch for Jevahirjian in this respect, chiefly, I believe, because he has the reputation of being a very enthusiastic patriot. The special ground of his arrest appears to have been the alleged fact that he was in correspondence with a certain Agob Yéghissian—also of Gurun—who was for three years Professor in the Armenian school here, and who is now, some say, in prison in Smyrna. Yéghissian has been a "suspected" person for some time past, having been twice in prison already, once in Denek Maden and once in Angora. He appears to have discovered recently that it was intended to arrest and imprison him again, whereupon he contrived to escape unperceived and took refuge in Smyrna.

I might mention in this connection that I hear on good authority that the Vali has received instructions from Constantinople to draw up a list of all Armenians now living in Angora who are considered in any way suspicious. It would appear that it is intended to give the very widest interpretation to these instructions, if it be true, as I am assured it is, that a list of some 150 persons has already been made out, most

of them being peaceable, quiet, respectable citizens, whose only "fault" is that they are, comparatively speaking, strangers, having come and settled in Angora within the last six or seven years.

Should this information prove to be correct, I will not fail to communicate again with your Excellency on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 224.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 953.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the murder of an Armenian priest by revolutionists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Van, November 4, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report the murder of an Armenian priest named "Der Comidar" on Sunday afternoon, about 3·30 P.M. He was decoyed into a lonely street, on the pretence of being required to see a sick person. There he was stabbed, and his head nearly cut off. There is no doubt that this murder was committed by affiliated members of the Huntchak Society, acting on orders from outside. The victim had incurred the enmity of the revolutionists during the recent events here; and it is thought that his murder is merely the prelude to that of several other prominent Armenians of this town, who have declared themselves as openly hostile to the extreme revolutionary Societies. The real gravity of this act rests, however, on the fact that, by it, the terrorism of the revolution has again been established, and that, in future, it is quite hopeless to expect the Armenians to do anything towards getting rid of, or handing over, any of the revolutionists who may come in here from Persia. Though they clearly understand that if the revolutionists ever again attain to the prominent position they occupied here for a long period prior to June last, nothing less than a miracle can save them and their families from annihilation. There is, however, ample time to take the necessary precautions. If suitable men can be obtained, there is no doubt that the Armenian police should be of considerable service. The real danger, however, lies on the Persian frontier. If the Persian Government could be induced to draft some troops into the Salamas district, and to take reasonable measures, they could, with the greatest ease, put a stop to the whole business. I hear privately from Urmi that the revolutionists there are talking "very big" about what they are going to do. Whatever they may say, there is no doubt that they are not strong enough to make a serious attack on the Turkish Government; indeed, their object appears to be to force the hands of Europe by exciting the Kurds to fresh massacres. And few, if any of them, having even the smallest stake in the country, they are prepared to sacrifice any number of their countrymen and women, to attain their ends.

It may further be remarked that the continuance of this menace on the frontier, magnified tenfold as it is by Oriental rumour, and by the extreme Islam party, weakens the hands of the well-disposed officials, and thereby enormously increases the difficulty of restoring law and order to this unhappy country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 225.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 954.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, commenting on the improvement in the attitude of the Mahommedans in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 63. Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November 5, 1896.*

SINCE my return here last week from an absence of three months, I have been observing signs of a great change in the attitude of the Mahommedans towards the Christians.

They have apparently become now much more tolerant and friendly to even Armenians, evincing in their intercourse with them not only a conciliatory spirit, but a sociable disposition.

Their comportment cannot be mere simulation, for there are symptoms to show that their political opinions have also veered round considerably, so much so, that humanitarian sentiments are now in the ascendency.

Such Turkish newspapers as the "Mechveret," received clandestinely and read avidiously, have been the means probably of revolutionizing their sympathies, and drawing them almost to the verge of disaffection against the Sultan, whose unpopularity in these parts can now no longer be doubted.

The officials, I find, have gauged correctly enough the views and wishes of the people. In my interviews with some of them to-day, I may here add in this connection the subject of the poll tax, announced as leviable on Mussulmans for defensive purposes, was broached by me. They all expressed themselves strongly against it, criticizing it as a fiscal measure which is likely to meet with insurmountable difficulties.

This appears to me significant enough when taken with the views of the Vali, who believes that, sinister or not as the object may be, the majority of the Turks would contribute most reluctantly to such a fund, as they are not only anxious for peace, but have lost all confidence in the wisdom of the Central Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 226.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 955.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the arrival of the Judicial Inspectors at that town and the release of some Armenian political prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 114.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 6, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Jaïb Bey and Yorghaki Effendi, the Judicial Inspectors for the Vilayets of Sivas and Erzeroum, arrived here yesterday from Erzingian, where they have spent some weeks. This is their first visit to Erzeroum since their appointment.

The day before their arrival, and I suppose in anticipation of their coming, twelve Armenian villagers from the Khinis district, who had been detained for some time under examination for alleged political offences, were unexpectedly released from gaol, and yesterday two Erzeroum Armenians who were charged with being accomplices of the revolutionary agents, whose arrest was reported in my despatch No. 100 of the 2nd ultimo to your Excellency, were also set at liberty. Over 100 other political prisoners, including those from Erzingian and Baiburt, still remain in custody, and the investigation of their cases will furnish the Judicial Inspectors with ample employment for the present, unless the rumour current here that there is to be a general gaol delivery of Armenian prisoners in the course of the next few days prove to be well founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 227.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 956.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 936 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, giving corrected details respecting the massacre at Everek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Angora, November 13, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 108 of the 7th instant, giving details concerning the massacre of Armenians at Everek, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that, according to the official list of killed and wounded, &c., as made up by the Armenian community of Everek, and forwarded to the authorities of Cæsarea, the following would appear to be the correct figures. I should state by way of preface that Fénessé is a village situated on the farther side of the valley, about 1½ miles off Everek, but, generally speaking, both of these villages are comprised under the general name of Everek.

Village.	Killed.	Wounded.	Houses looted.	Shops looted.	Houses burned.
Everek	30	33	10	37	38
Fénessé	23	45	15	15	3
Totals ..	53	78	25	52	41

From this it will be seen that the number of killed is considerably less than in the calculation made by me previously, which, however, was founded on what appeared to me to be reliable information. I regret that I should have allowed myself to become

the medium for the circulation of an exaggerated statement. The mistake was probably due to the confusion of the number of those who were killed with that of those who were merely wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 228.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 957.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 882 of the 28th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jerusalem, stating that orders have been received there for the levy of the poll tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Acting Consul Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Jerusalem, November 9, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on Wednesday, the 4th instant, the order was received here from Constantinople for the levy of the poll tax lately imposed for military purposes, and the measure, which forms the subject of much comment, may, it is feared, excite the fanaticism of the Mussulman population, more especially as the tax is levied on Mahommedans exclusively.

Up to the present time, however, there has been no manifestation of unusual hostility on the part of the Moslems against their Christian neighbours, and the absence of such disquieting symptoms is probably to be ascribed in great measure to the cautious policy adopted by the Governor of Jerusalem, Ibrahim Pasha, whose efforts for the maintenance of order are ably seconded by the Commander of the Military Forces, Rustem Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 229.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 958.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis respecting the progress made in the execution of reforms in that vilayet. I propose to make representations to the Sublime Porte respecting the seizure of relief money for the payment of tithes as therein reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 59.)
Sir, *Mush, November 4, 1896.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, so far as I have been able to ascertain, no new steps appear to have been taken by the local authorities of this vilayet in the execution of reforms. I will, however, report further from Bitlis in three or four days.

I hear that Christian gendarmes have been enrolled, but that they have not entered upon their duties.

As I have had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency, an Armenian Mouavin to the Mutessarif here has been appointed. It is not known here whether Christian Mouavins have been appointed to other sandjaks, or to any caza of the vilayet.

Taxes were being collected by gendarmes in the old fashion in villages on my road from Bitlis here.

Six thousand five hundred piastres for tithes have been retained from relief money due from the Local Government of this sandjak to Sasun villages. The rest of the money has been distributed, nominally at least, in grain to these villages, which lately lost much of their crops through a hailstorm. The grain, however, is said to have been distributed according to a remarkably dishonest computation of its value.

The vilayet appears to be in general quiet. A series of robberies of sheep and cattle of Christian villages have however occurred during the last six weeks in Akhlat, a caza which was visited by Shakir Pasha four weeks ago. I have a list of six villages which were plundered. From one at least of them oxen were taken away which had been provided out of relief funds by the Rev. Mr. Cole, of Bitlis. Before leaving Bitlis I spoke to the Vali on the subject of the robberies in Akhlat, and he said he had sent a strong force of gendarmes into the caza, but it seems that it will be very difficult to identify the robbers.

There is here some vague expectation of something in the way of reform being about to be done by Russia, or by Russia and England. I have not communicated to anybody the fact that the order referred to in your Excellency's telegram has been given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 230.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 269.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 841 of the 14th ultimo reporting that an Iradé had been issued, but not as yet published, sanctioning certain reforms drawn up by Izzet Bey in collaboration with M. Maximoff, I have now the honour to state that an Announcement appeared in the Turkish press of the 11th promulgating the reforms in question.

After recording the various reforms granted successively in 1839, 1856, and 1895, the Announcement states that the following reforms are published by decision of the Council of Ministers, sanctioned by His Imperial Majesty. They consist of the application of the Laws and Regulations contained in the Destour, the Hatt of Gulhané, and the Firman of Reforms; that is to say, they confirm the provisions actually in force of the Law for the General Administration of the Vilayets, dated 29 Shawal, 1287 (1870–71), and guarantee the execution with certain modifications of the Law for the Administration of Nahiés of the 25th March, 1876, up to Article 27. They provide:—

1. For the nomination of judicial Inspectors to every one, two, or three vilayets, with assistants, if necessary, for the purpose of facilitating the progress of law-suits and of superintending the condition of the prisons.

2. For the enrolment of gendarmes and police from various classes of His Majesty's subjects, in accordance with the special Regulations already in force with regard to the gendarmerie of the Empire. They will be responsible for the maintenance of public order and for the safety of the post when passing through their district.

3. For the appointment, again in accordance with the above-mentioned Firmans, of suitable Ottoman subjects to the posts of administrative officials, as well as of Mouavins to Valis, Mutessarifs, and Kaimakams.

4. For the thorough execution of the Laws previously promulgated with regard to the administration of prisons and houses of detention.

5. For the selection of Kaimakams from graduates of the Imperial Civil School, or from amongst experienced and capable persons already occupying the post.

6. For the appointment of a Moukhtar for each quarter of a village, if it have

several, and for each denomination of its inhabitants, should the population be mixed.

7. For the collection of taxes by special officials assisted by the Moukhtars and Collectors elected by the people, so that no occasion be given for the employment of the police. Such special officials to have no right to demand food or forage from the inhabitants, or to appropriate the funds collected by them.

8. For the maintenance of the principle already in force, that tithes are to be adjudicated village by village, and that the inhabitants are to have the priority over other applicants.

9. For the proper recognition of the custom sanctioning the exemption from forced labour in return for payment in money or in kind;

10. For the fixing of the budget of public instruction for each vilayet by the Ministry of Education.

The Announcement concludes by stating that instructions have been sent to all the vilayets to proceed at once to the application of these Regulations.

As your Lordship will observe, the reforms omit nearly all the most important points insisted on in the reforms scheme of last year, *e.g.*, "gardes champêtres," Regulations with regard to Kurds and Hamidié, Councils of Ancients, Juges d'Instruction, and Christian officials, and the only provision of any importance appears to be the one relative to tax-collecting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 231.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 25, 1896.*

AT an interview I had to-day with M. Hanotaux, his Excellency told me that in his opinion all the Powers were still entirely agreed as to the policy of intrusting the task of supervising the execution of reforms to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and added that the French Representative had been again instructed in precise terms to take energetic action in concert with the other Ambassadors.

I inquired what his Excellency thought would happen in case of a refusal of compliance on the part of the Sultan, to which M. Hanotaux replied that the Ambassadors must decide that question. With regard to financial pressure, he stated that he now considers this to be simply incidental, and to be less a matter of concern to Governments than to financiers.

A full answer to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th October will be sent shortly, which means, I presume, after his Excellency has heard what Count de Montebello has to report on his return from St. Petersburgh.

His Excellency virtually confessed that his suggestion of exercising financial rather than material pressure on the Sultan has been stifled at its birth.

No. 232.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 25, 1896.*

I CALLED upon M. Chichkine to-day, who told me that he had seen the Emperor last Monday. His Excellency stated that after having given further explanations to His Majesty he had been authorized to telegraph to the Russian Ambassador in London, for communication to your Lordship, and to inform me, that, should the Sultan resort to his customary tergiversation in regard to the reforms which were recommended by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, the Imperial Government would not refuse to take into consideration your Lordship's proposal for the application of coercive measures, provided that there was unanimity among the Powers. His Excellency also said that he had just informed the Turkish Ambassador that your Lordship's proposal had been agreed to by

the Russian Government, and that, should the Sultan refuse to carry out the recommendations made, measures of compulsion would be employed.

M. Chichkine, whose telegram will probably be read to your Lordship by M. de Staal, added that the adhesion of the Russian Government had likewise been communicated to the other Powers.

No. 233.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 502.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1896.*

THE Russian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office this afternoon, and communicated, verbally, to me and to Sir Thomas Sanderson the contents of a telegram which he had just received from his Government.

It was to the effect that the information recently received by the foreign Representatives at St. Petersburgh from their respective Governments showed clearly the existence of a misunderstanding as to the reception given by the Russian Government to the proposals contained in my Circular despatch of the 20th October. The repugnance expressed by the Russian Government to the principle of employing measures of coercion towards an independent Sovereign seemed to have been considered by Her Majesty's Government as implying a refusal to join in the common action at Constantinople which I had proposed.

The Emperor, however, had had no such intention. On the contrary, M. de Staal was instructed to declare that the Russian Government entirely adhered to the idea of intrusting to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople the task of examining and proposing to their Governments the measures calculated to contribute to the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, while efficiently guaranteeing the security of the Christian population. The Emperor attached to this idea the greatest importance, and was anxious to render impossible in the future the recurrence of the terrible excesses which had so justly excited the indignation of the whole civilized world.

His Majesty continued to hope that firm and unanimous language on the part of all the Representatives, duly authorized by their Governments, would insure the adoption of the measures which might, by joint agreement, be decided to be indispensable. If, on the contrary, and against expectation, a refusal without justification, or the delays and evasions which had unfortunately been too often experienced, should interfere with the execution of these measures, the Russian Government would consent to discuss the methods of pressure to be chosen according to circumstances so soon as all the Powers had recognized that such measures were absolutely necessary and inevitable.

I expressed my satisfaction at receiving this statement of the views of the Russian Government, which went further than any communication I had yet received from them in recognizing the mode of action which the present condition of the Turkish Government had, in our judgment, rendered necessary, and I said that the intentions thus avowed by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia would, in my belief, have an important influence upon the counsels of the Sultan. I could not, at the same time, avoid taking note of a certain indistinctness attaching to the closing words of the telegram, in which the necessity was recognized of resorting to "pressure" if the Turkish Government should refuse or evade compliance with the unanimous requirements of the Powers.

Such an accord on their part would not be arrived at lightly, and some interval might possibly elapse before it was attained in regard to any proposal which would be strongly repugnant to the prepossessions of the Ottoman Government.

I said that whenever such a state of agreement was reached, I thought it would be a point of much importance that the resolution of the Powers to exercise material pressure in support of any proposal so agreed upon should be ascertained before the proposal was formally made to the Sultan's Government, in order that His Majesty may not be induced to commit himself in the sight of his subjects to a negative or evasive reply by a fallacious reliance upon the possible disunion of the Powers in respect to the employment of such measures as might be necessary to insure his acceptance of their recommendations.

I was obliged, therefore, while accepting the present determination of the Russian Government with much satisfaction, to reserve to Her Majesty's Government the right,

in case the consultation of the Ambassadors should result in such an agreement as I had indicated, to bring this particular question again under the consideration of the Imperial Government, with the object of obtaining a more precise expression of their views.

I have shown the draft of this despatch to M. de Staal, in order that there may be no doubt as to the exact purport of the statements made on either side, and have given him a copy of it, after receiving from him an assurance that I have accurately recorded his language.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 234.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 110.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 26, 1896.*

I AM informed by Count Goluchowski that a telegram has just been received by him from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh stating that the Russian Government appear to have changed their views respecting the proposals made by your Lordship for the introdction of reforms in Turkey.

He was informed by Mr. Chichkine that there had been a misunderstanding, the British Government having apparently been under the impression that the proposals put forward by your Lordship were objected to by Russia.

His Excellency stated that this was not the case, that, on the contrary, Russia was quite prepared to agree to them in principle.

He believes that as regards measures to coerce the Sultan, as such measures would be necessary once His Majesty was convinced of the unanimity of the Powers; but Russia would not be indisposed to concert with the other Powers upon the mode of coercion to be employed, if the Sultan still refused to submit.

This apparently new depaature at St. Petersburgh appears to have given great gratification to Count Goluchowski; but he insists that, before any further proposals are submitted to the Sultan, an agreement should be arrived at in principle upon the eventual employment of coercion.

No. 235.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 368. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, November 25, 1896.*

ON calling on M. Hanotaux this afternoon his Excellency received me with the exclamation, "Oh! comme vos journaux Anglais sont méchants!"

On my inquiring what had caused him to form so bad an opinion of the English press, M. Hanotaux replied that it was clear that a regular campaign was being organized against him, and that it was a disappointment to see his efforts in the cause of reforms in Turkey being intentionally misinterpreted, or at least misunderstood, and to read statements to the effect that Russia and France were no longer in agreement as to the measures to be taken under existing circumstances at Constantinople.

Though M. Hanotaux did not specify to what articles he was referring, I imagine he had in his mind the telegram published in the "Times" of the 23rd instant from Vienna, which asserts that "one of the Agreements arrived at during the Tzar's visit to Paris has already fallen through,"* and that "one of the demands addressed by France to St. Petersburgh has been found unacceptable," and the leading article in the same issue commenting somewhat satirically on "the sublime patience of French diplomacy."

M. Hanotaux begged me to assure your Lordship that instead of there being any disagreement between Paris and St. Petersburgh, all the Powers, as far as he was aware—and he had taken great pains in forming this opinion—were still in complete agreement as to the necessity of intrusting to the Ambassadors at Constantinople the

* This is a quotation from the "Neue Freie Presse."

task of seeing the promised reforms effectually carried out by the Ottoman Government; and that he had sent fresh and precise instructions to M. Cambon to act with increased energy for this purpose, in union with his colleagues. He still adhered to every word he had spoken in the Chamber as to the Armenian atrocities; and he still hoped that his warning had not been given in vain.

In reply to my inquiry what measures he would now be prepared to adopt, should the Sultan prove deaf to the counsels of the Ambassadors, M. Hanotaux said that this was a question which he should leave to the decision of the Ambassadors—who, being on the spot, are perfectly competent to recommend such measures as may be necessary to bring the Sultan to reason. "If the Sultan is once convinced that all Europe is really and sincerely united in demanding these reforms—a fact which he has never yet, I fear, realized—I feel assured he will give way."

I then inquired whether his Excellency had anything new to tell me as to the proposed measures for improving the financial position of Turkey.

M. Hanotaux asked whether your Lordship had instructed me to ask this question, or whether it was a merely personal inquiry.

I said that I had no instructions whatever on the question, but that as he had spoken to me at length on the subject on the 11th instant, I had naturally felt it my duty to report to your Lordship his observations. (See my despatch No. 344, Very Confidential, of the 11th instant.)

M. Hanotaux, begging me to understand that he was now simply speaking "à titre personnel," said that the question of financial reform was simply an incident in the general question of Turkish reorganization, and one which concerns the financiers specially interested in its solution, rather than the Governments of the Great Powers. It was, no doubt, of great importance to prevent a financial collapse at Constantinople, especially in view of the large pecuniary stake France has in Turkey; but the French Government had to look at the matter from a national—he might almost say from an international—standpoint; and for the present, at all events, he was inclined to leave on one side the question of financial reform, and with it the appointment of a Russian Delegate on the Commission of the Ottoman Debt.

M. Hanotaux concluded his conversation on this subject by saying that by the time Her Majesty's Ambassador had arrived in Paris, he would be in a position to send an answer to the proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 420 of the 20th ultimo—I imagine after hearing Count de Montebello's report of his conversation with the Emperor Nicholas and M. Chichkine.

The tone of M. Hanotaux' remarks exhibited an extreme sensitiveness as to the failure of Count de Montebello to induce the Russian Government to agree to his scheme for replacing material coercion by a policy of starving the Sultan into submission, and an evident wish to make me understand that the two Governments are still in complete accord as to the policy to be pursued at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 236.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 28, 1896.*

A REPORT has been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van stating that serious trouble is threatened by the arrival of Armenian revolutionary agents from the Persian side of the frontier, and that the Kurds are excited and peaceable Armenians terrorized by their language and proceedings.

The Vice-Consul suggests that troops should be sent into the Salmas district by the Russian Government, and that steps should be taken to prevent the spread of the revolutionary propaganda across the frontier.

No. 237.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of my despatch, relative to the Commissions which have been constituted in the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Cossova, for the purpose of collecting pecuniary contributions to the armament fund at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Salonica, November 22, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegrams No. 63 of the 9th, and No. 64 of the 10th instant, reporting that, in accordance with the Sultan's Iradé, Commissions have been formed in the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Cossova, for the collection of a contribution for military purposes, and I now inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Monastir on the subject.

The measure is regarded here with the same feelings as those described in the above report; the most enlightened Turks in this place, both in official and private circles, being convinced that much of the money raised will be diverted to the needs of the Palace.

Although the contribution is understood to be compulsory on Mahommedans only, the Iradé expressly stated that subscriptions from non-Mahommedans will be accepted as a proof of loyalty, and the important Jewish community of Salonica have formed a Commission among themselves which has already collected 250*l*. None of the other non-Mahommedan communities have as yet followed this course.

I also understand that the authorities in some districts of this vilayet are calling upon the Christian villages to subscribe to the new fund, and are using some pressure towards them representing it as a duty to assist the object of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Acting Vice-Consul Blunt to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Monastir, November 12, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that pursuant to an Iradé of the Sultan a Commission has been instituted in this town, under the residency of the Governor-General, to deliberate and take the measures best calculated to secure the prompt collection of a capitulation tax to be levied on Mussulmans of from 5 piastres to 200 piastres each.

A Commission for the same purpose is to be instituted in each of the districts included in this vilayet, and the amounts collected by these Commissions are to be sent to the armament fund being raised at Constantinople.

The imposition of this tax is much criticised in Turkish circles, and is exciting some uneasiness among the Christians here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. S. BLUNT.

No. 238.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 360. Confidential.)

Vienna, November 24, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Goluchowski tells me that he has received similar information to that which has been reported by Sir N. O'Conor, viz., that the Emperor of Russia was unwilling to consent to any undertaking which implied the adoption of coercive measures against the Sultan. His Excellency, who did not appear to be surprised at this intelligence, evidently thought that the announcement of this resolve on the part of the Russian Government rendered the prospect of any satisfactory result being obtained in regard to the introduction of reforms in Turkey extremely problematical. The Ambassadors might, indeed, continue to study the question, but as far as he himself was concerned, he was as much opposed as ever to undertaking any action, except on the understanding that it was not to be another farce, and that the Powers really intended to enforce whatever proposals they should agree upon.

The Great Powers appeared, indeed, to be unanimous on the subject of maintaining the *status quo*, but while the one part wished, by the introduction of salutary reforms, to postpone the final break-down of the Turkish Empire as long as possible, the other apparently objected to adopt any such measures, and was willing merely to look on, while the situation in Turkey drifted from bad to worse. Under these circumstances, the only slight cause for satisfaction was that Russia, whatever her other intentions might be, did not appear to wish for any general conflagration. As long as the situation at Constantinople remained quiet, there was consequently no immediate cause for anxiety, but Count Goluchowski said he should very much like to know what action the Powers meant to take in the event of a further outbreak in the Turkish capital, which after all might occur at any moment.

In alluding to the refusal of the Russian Government to accept the French scheme for the reorganization of the financial administration of Turkey, Count Goluchowski said that he thought it must have caused M. Hanotaux very considerable annoyance. He had been led to believe for weeks past that the French and Russian Governments had come to a complete understanding, and had been in daily expectation of a communication from M. Chichkine on the subject, instead of which he had now received the announcement that the Russian Government would have nothing to do with the French proposals. During the various conversations I have had with his Excellency on the subject he always seemed to me to entertain a certain mistrust in regard to M. Hanotaux's financial scheme, as he appeared to imagine that its principal object was to serve specific French financial interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 239.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 30.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury et a l'honneur, en se référant à l'entretien de Mercredi dernier, de porter à sa connaissance ce qui suit :

Le Gouvernement Impérial, dans son vif et sincère désir d'exécuter toutes les réformes qu'il avait promis d'introduire dans l'Empire, n'a cessé de s'occuper de la prompte application de ces réformes et en a déjà réalisé la plus grande partie. La Sublime Porte croit donc nécessaire, en vertu du Traité de Berlin, de faire connaître aux Grandes Puissances les réformes exécutées en se faisant une règle de ne citer que des faits accomplis.

Vingt-neuf Chrétiens sont nommés dans les six provinces d'Anatolie, dont six comme adjoints des Gouverneurs-Généraux, six Inspecteurs judiciaires, quatre adjoints des Mutessarifs, onze adjoints des Caimacans, et deux Caimacans.

Un grand nombre de Chrétiens est incorporé dans la gendarmerie et la police et les fonds pour la réorganisation de ces deux corps et des percepteurs d'impôts sont déjà alloués et ordonnancés. On continue à faire appel aux autres Chrétiens de venir s'enrôler.

Des Commissions d'Enquête et de Contrôle des titres de propriété sont déjà instituées et en fonctions.

La division des communes et l'élection de leur Mudir sont accomplies et on est en voie de former les Conseils Municipaux.

Plusieurs Chrétiens qui ont eu recours aux autorités, ont été admis à servir dans l'Administration.

Les dîmes ont été mises aux enchères par les autorités des vilayets et affermées aux indigènes.

Les membres des Conseils Administratifs et des Tribunaux sont, suivant les lois y relatives, élus par les habitants.

Le système de prestation pour les routes et chemins est pratiqué.

On s'occupe de la réorganisation des prisons. Le principal devoir des inspecteurs judiciaires, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens, envoyés en Anatolie, consiste à veiller à ce que les maisons d'arrêt et les prisons soient tenues dans des conditions conformes aux exigences de l'hygiène, de la justice, et de l'humanité. Les devis des dépenses qu'occasionnerait l'amélioration des maisons d'arrêt et des prisons provinciales sont soumis à l'examen du Conseil des Ministres.

Il est procédé au désarmement des habitants. Les régiments Hamidiés ne sont autorisés à porter des armes que durant le temps des exercices militaires.

Un délai de deux ans est accordé pour le paiement des taxes d'exonération militaire.

Il a été envoyé en Anatolie des Commissions pour distribuer des secours et restituer à leurs propriétaires les objets enlevés ou volés.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ayant été informé qu'un certain nombre de Musulmans et non-Musulmans, accusés d'avoir commis des méfaits pendant les derniers désordres se trouvait détenu sans jugement, des instructions ont été adressées à tous les fonctionnaires judiciaires les invitant à procéder dans le plus bref délai au jugement de tous les individus de cette catégorie et à rendre les sentences requises de condamnation ou d'acquittement. Ainsi des jugements ont été déjà rendus à l'égard de plus de la moitié de ces individus ; quant aux autres, leurs procès sont instruits activement.

Il est alloué des sommes pour la restauration de certains établissements Chrétiens, tels que : écoles, églises et monastères qui avaient été endommagés pendant les derniers troubles.

Indépendamment du don important que Sa Majesté Impériale a accordé sur sa cassette particulière en faveur des nécessiteux, des souscriptions recueillies par une Commission instituée à Constantinople et s'élevant à plus de £ T. 30,000, ont été distribuées par les employés spécialement envoyés en Anatolie, soit en espèce, soit en graines de semence.

Les habitants dont les maisons avaient été endommagées sont autorisés à couper gratuitement dans les forêts de l'État du bois nécessaire à la restauration de leurs demeures.

La Commission d'Inspection Militaire, au sein de laquelle siégeaient pour cette circonstance des officiers supérieurs étrangers se trouvant au service de l'État, avait été chargée de faire une enquête sur la conduite des troupes Impériales et de la police pendant les derniers troubles à Constantinople et a remis son Rapport à la Sublime Porte. Il en résulte que les autorités et les troupes s'étaient acquittées consciencieusement de leur devoir à l'exception de sept ou huit agents de police qui avaient fait preuve de négligence dans la restitution d'objets volés retrouvés entre les mains de quelques individus sans aveu.

Ces agents ont été immédiatement arrêtés et déférés aux Tribunaux pour être jugés.

Ainsi le Gouvernement Impérial a tenu à remplir entièrement ses promesses malgré les entraves suscitées par les révolutionnaires Arméniens qui auraient pu retarder leur accomplissement. A l'heure qu'il est il ne reste que deux ou trois réformes, telles que celles visant les élections des Conseils Communaux, l'institution des gardes champêtres, et des Juges de Paix, réformes dont l'exécution a dû subir quelque retard et sur lesquelles on délibère encore.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan soucieux du bien-être de ses sujets a bien voulu ordonner l'application des réformes susmentionnées dans toutes les autres provinces de l'Empire avec les modifications exigées par les nécessités locales.

Comme preuve des efforts sincères du Gouvernement Impérial pour l'application des réformes on pourrait citer la satisfaction exprimée par les Consuls d'Angleterre et de France au Vali d'Erzeroum pour la promptitude déployée à ce sujet dans la dite province.

Il n'est pas besoin de rappeler les diminutions de revenus que le Trésor Impérial a subies du fait de la dernière guerre et à la suite du Traité de Berlin. La Bulgarie, la Grèce, le Monténégro, et la Serbie n'ont pas payé les redevances qui avaient été mises à leur charge, ni leurs parts contributives dans la Dette Générale de l'Empire. D'autre part, le Gouvernement Impérial a été obligé de compléter son matériel et ses munitions de guerre, de restaurer les établissements de bienfaisance et d'utilité publique qui avaient souffert pendant les hostilités et de payer régulièrement l'indemnité de guerre stipulée en faveur de la Russie. Tout cela a pu être fait sans recourir à un grand emprunt.

Mais bien que l'application en entier des réformes désirées par l'Europe exige des sommes considérables, quelques-unes des Grandes Puissances, qui poursuivent l'exécution des dites réformes, soulèvent des difficultés tant à la signature des Traités de Commerce qui servi ont à augmenter les revenus de l'Etat, qu'à l'acceptation de quelques monopoles que le Gouvernement Impérial a l'intention d'établir.

La Sublime Porte est arrivée, grâce à certaines économies réalisées et à de nouveaux revenus qu'elle a su créer, à non seulement équilibrer mais encore disposer d'un excédent supérieur à £ T. 1,200,000, dans le Budget de l'année prochaine. Cet excédent lui permettra de mettre ordre, en se renfermant dans les limites d'une stricte économie, à l'administration de ses dépenses ordinaires et extraordinaires

L'occasion semble bonne aussi pour relever que le Gouvernement Impérial a respecté et respecte les garanties qu'il a données pour les engagements financiers qu'il a contractés vis-à-vis de l'Europe et qu'il n'a jamais voulu intervenir dans le service de la Dette Publique Ottomane, dont l'administration est confiée aux délégués des "bondholders," et pour affirmer aussi que le Gouvernement Impérial se fera toujours un devoir de continuer à persévérer dans cette même ligne de conduite propre à rassurer tous les intéressés.

L'excédent prévu pour le prochain Exercice sera affecté aux dépenses nécessitées par l'application des réformes; mais comme la plus grande partie des sommes composant cet excédent doit provenir des revenus qui résulteront de l'application des nouveaux Traités de Commerce et de l'établissement des monopoles, la Sublime Porte estime que les Puissances, dans leur désir de voir ces réformes exécutées, ne peuvent se refuser d'entrer dans la seule voie qui permettra au Gouvernement Impérial de les réaliser.

Sa Seigneurie trouvera dans l'Annexe ci-jointe le résumé rédigé sur les informations fournies par les Gouverneurs-Généraux et concernant les réformes appliquées dans les Vilayets de Sivas, Diarbékir, Bitlis, Van, et Erzeroum. Le Gouverneur-Général de Mamouret-ul-Aziz n'ayant pas fait encore parvenir tous les renseignements qui lui avaient été demandés, Anthopoulo Pacha se réserve d'en faire l'objet d'une communication aussitôt que le document y relatif lui sera envoyé.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 30 Novembre, 1896.

Inclosure in No. 239.

Memorandum.

Vilayet de Sivas.

UN Mouavin non-Musulman a été nommé auprès du Vali. Des Mouavins non-Musulmans ont été également nommés auprès des Mutessarifs de Tocat et de Kara-Hissar Chaki et des Caïmacans de Gimin et de Mar-ovam.

La population non-Musulmane du vilayet étant dans la proportion de 17 pour cent par rapport à la population Musulmane, les autorités Impériales ont déjà pris les dispositions nécessaires pour que les fonctions administratives soient réparties en conséquence.

La composition des Conseils Administratifs se fait déjà d'après les indications de l'Article 6 du plan des réformes.

L'organisation des nahiés a déjà commencée et sera terminée dans quelques jours. Les villages ont déjà leurs Moukhtars et aucun village ne pourra désormais, conformément à l'Article 16, relever de deux nahiés à la fois. Les Juges de Paix seront nommés aussitôt que l'organisation des nahiés sera achevée. Des Inspecteurs judiciaires Musulmans et non-Musulmans ont été déjà nommés. Des agents de police ont été recrutés parmi les sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 20.

Les agents de police des nahiés seront recrutés lorsque leur organisation sera terminée.

Le recrutement des officiers et soldats de la gendarmerie s'effectue conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 22.

Plus de soixante gendarmes non-Musulmans ont été engagés jusqu'ici et le reste le sera dans quelques jours.

Des gardes champêtres seront choisis suivant le mode indiqué dans l'Article 24 après l'organisation des nahiés. Les Règlements existants sur la tenue des prisons et des maisons d'arrêt sont strictement exécutés et les Comités d'Enquête Préliminaire mentionnés dans l'Article 26 fonctionnent régulièrement. Il n'existe pas de tribus ni de Kurdes dans ce vilayet. Des Commissions ont été instituées pour la revision des titres de propriété. La liste des Receveurs dressée par le vilayet est soumise à la Sublime Porte. Ceux-ci entreront en fonctions aussitôt que leurs nominations seront confirmées. La perception de la dîme se fait par voie d'affermage et par village et toutes les dispositions de l'Article 31 sont strictement appliquées.

Vilayet de Diarbékir.

Le Mouavin du Vali et les Inspecteurs judiciaires ont été déjà nommés et exercent leurs fonctions. Des Mouavins ont été également nommés auprès des Caïmacans de certains districts. L'organisation de la police a été accomplie; dix-neuf gendarmes ont été déjà recrutés au chef-lieu de la province et le recrutement continue. L'organisation des nahiés se fait et les élections ont commencé. Les membres des Conseils Administratifs sont choisis tant au chef-lieu que dans les sandjaks suivant le mode indiqué dans le plan. Les Comités d'Enquête Préliminaire fonctionnent déjà. En application de l'Article 5, les fonctionnaires non-Musulmans doivent être dans le vilayet au nombre de quatre-vingt-dix. Ce nombre il en existe cinquante-neuf, le nombre sera complété au fur et à mesure des vacances.

Vilayet de Bitlis.

Le Mouavin du Vali et ceux de quelques Mutessarifs et Caïmacans sont déjà nommés. La perception des impôts se fait exclusivement par des Receveurs Musulmans et non-Musulmans. Les bataillons de gendarmerie ayant leur effectif réglementaire, des dispositions sont prises pour le remplacement par des Chrétiens des gendarmes âgés ou infirmes. Des Comités d'Enquête Préliminaire et des Commissions chargées de la revision des titres de propriété ont été déjà institués, et ont commencé à fonctionner. Les dispositions du plan concernant la migration des Kurdes et des tribus ont été mises en application à partir de cette année. La perception de la dîme se fait par voie d'affermage et par village. Les membres des Conseils Administratifs sont élus parmi les Musulmans et les non-Musulmans, conformément au mode indiqué dans le plan. Les Règlements sur les feuilles de route et le port d'armes sont également appliqués aux Kurdes. Des fonctionnaires non-Musulmans seront nommés aux postes administratifs proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane. La liste des agents de police qui doivent être recrutés a été déjà envoyée à la Sublime Porte. Le service de la police est organisé depuis cinq mois au chef-lieu et dans les sandjaks. Les Inspecteurs judiciaires ont pris les dispositions nécessaires pour accélérer le jugement de tous les procès en cours et surveillent l'état des prisons. L'organisation des nahiés se fait, et les élections ont déjà commencé. Les formalités nécessaires pour le choix des gardes champêtres, l'institution du Conseil des Anciens, et le recrutement d'agents de police aux nahiés seront remplies aussitôt que l'organisation des communes sera complétée.

Vilayet de Van.

Des Mouavins ont été nommés auprès du Vali et des Caïmacans de deux districts. Les Comités d'Enquête Préliminaire ont été déjà formés. Les habitants non-Musulmans ont été avisés que ceux d'entre eux qui désireraient prendre du service dans la gendarmerie doivent s'adresser à cet effet aux autorités Impériales. Les Inspecteurs judiciaires font régulièrement leurs tournées d'inspection et deux maisons, dont l'une servira de prison pour les femmes et l'autre d'hôpital pour les détenus malades, ont été déjà louées.

Vilayet d'Erzeroum.

L'organisation des nahiés a déjà commencé. La liste des Receveurs a été soumise au Ministère de l'Intérieur où elle est en cours d'examen. Des Commissions chargées de la revision des titres de propriété ont été instituées et commenceront à fonctionner aussitôt que les instructions demandées à ce sujet à la Sublime Porte auront été envoyées. Toutes les autres dispositions du plan des réformes ont été complètement appliquées.

No. 240.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 365.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1896.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 958 of the 17th instant inclosing a report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis regarding the progress of reforms in that vilayet.

I approve your Excellency's proposal to make representations to the Porte respecting the seizure of relief money for the payment of tithes, as reported by Mr. Monahan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 241.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 966.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 20, 1896.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 998 of the 7th October, respecting the expulsion of Armenians from Silleh, I have the honour to state that I thought it advisable to obtain fuller information respecting this incident before making representations to the Sublime Porte on the matter.

I now learn from the British Vice-Consul at Konia, who has come to Constantinople on leave, that the forty Armenian families mentioned in his despatch were spending the hot weather at Silleh which is a summer resort close to Konia, and were merely sent back to their town houses by the military commandant. Although the proceedings of the officer were arbitrary, it is probable that his object was to avoid any disturbance, as there was a considerable Mussulman population and no Armenian residents in the village.

Under these circumstances I have not thought it necessary to take any further action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 242.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 970.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 21, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 916 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state that I learn that the sentence of death passed on the Bishop of Bitlis has been confirmed by the Court of Cassation, and is now before the Sultan.

I have caused a Memorandum to be presented to the Grand Vizier relating the circumstances of the case, as reported by Mr. Monahan in his despatch No. 56 of the 18th ultimo, and requesting that all possible leniency may be shown to the Bishop.

Although I have little hope that a free pardon will be granted to him, yet it is very unlikely that the sentence of death will be actually carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 243.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 973.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 909 of the 4th November, I have the honour to report that the "Ikdam" of the 21st instant announces the appointment of an Armenian, Ferid Effendi, to the post of Kaïmakam of Hadjin. Nazaret Potikian Effendi, also an Armenian, has been appointed Kaïmakam of Hafik in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 244.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 975.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 25, 1896.

THE execution of the Armenian reforms under the auspices of the French Embassy does not appear to be making much practical progress, notwithstanding the orders which have undoubtedly been issued from the Palace.

The want of money, the total disorganization of the public services, and the want of confidence on the part of the Armenians resulting from the total impunity accorded to those concerned in the massacres, create obstacles that could hardly be successfully surmounted even if the Sultan's determination to keep his promises were much stronger than it is. M. Cambon's own language shows very little belief in the success of his efforts, and the Chief Dragoman of the French Embassy, who has been in constant communication at the Palace with Izzet Bey, admits that he does not believe that any practical amelioration will be arrived at.

It seems probable, however, that we are entering on a calmer phase of the Armenian question. Some credit is due for this to the Sultan's recent action in regard to reforms, some to the negotiations which have passed with the Revolutionary Committees in London and Paris through the medium of Diran Bey, and more to the meeting of the National Assembly and the election of the Patriarch, which were arranged by the Sultan, through the mediation of Artin Pasha.

It is believed that a more conciliatory policy will now be adopted towards the Armenians, and that the Revolutionary Committee will, for the present, abstain from any further acts of provocation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 245.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 976. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, November* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Block of a confidential conversation which he held yesterday with Tewfik Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in regard to the communications which have been recently passing between the French Ambassador and the Palace.

The singular frankness of his Excellency's language may be partly due to annoyance at having been left out of these negotiations; but it must also be borne in mind that the traditional policy of the Porte is to sow the seeds of jealousy and dissensions between the Representatives of the Great Powers, and that the task of doing so in the present instance may have been confided to Tewfik Pasha, while Izzet Bey is negotiating with the French Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

I HAD a long and confidential conversation with Tewfik Pasha, the Foreign Minister, yesterday. With regard to reforms, he said that great efforts were being made to put them into force, but although there was a commencement, and some minor reforms had been completed, there was still a great deal to be done. As for M. Cambon, he thought his motives were purely personal, and he was acting in the interests of French financiers and French concessionnaires rather than in those of the Armenians, of the Turkish nation, or of the consent of Europe. He had seen the correspondence between M. Cambon and Izzet Bey; it was very voluminous, and seemed to him, the Foreign Minister, to refer entirely to French affairs, as, for instance, Catholic establishments, the trial of Mazhar Bey, and other petty French reclamations; but the chief efforts of M. Cambon had been devoted to obtaining a sum of money for a French Railway Company.

When Djevad was Grand Vizier, the French obtained a railway Concession for a line from Damascus to Birejik with a kilometric guarantee of 14,000 fr. The line was incapable of supporting so heavy a guarantee, passing, as it did, almost entirely through a desert country. Neverth less, Djevad Pacha, for a consideration, maintaining it was of strategical importance, gave the Concession for the line.

The French financiers interested had not been able to raise the necessary capital, but M. Cambon insisted that the line had not been made owing to the fault of the Turkish Government, and to the disturbed state of the country; the French capitalists had, said M. Cambon, spent a large sum in preliminary expenses, engineers' salaries, and in surveys, &c., the interest on this sum amounting to £T. 35,000 per annum. M. Cambon therefore demanded payment of this sum for five years. The Porte pointed out that the fault was not theirs, but that of the French, who could not raise the capital; that the sum demanded was outrageous, and that if it was paid now, there was nothing to prevent the French asking for it again when the five years was up, but, as M. Cambon said, "Cela fera une excellente impression en France, et la France entière sera avec vous," &c., the Palace gave way, and promised to pay the sum of £T. 165,000 to M. Cambon. Thus, said the Foreign Minister, whatever the reforms may or may not be, M. Cambon hopes rather to satisfy the French with concessions to their financial interests than by settling the Armenian question.

November 25, 1896.

No. 246.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 977. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, November* 25, 1896.

IN the course of a confidential conversation which I had yesterday with the French Ambassador, he referred to the question of the Straits as the standing obstacle to the co-operation of Russia with the other Powers in the affairs of Turkey.

I asked him what solution of the question would, in his opinion, satisfy Russia. He said that he had never been able to extract from M. de Nélidow a definite answer to that question, but that he had been struck by the language which M. Jadowsky, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy, who is acting as Chargé d'Affaires in the Ambassador's absence, had employed some few days ago.

In reply to an inquiry from M. Cambon as to what were the real aims of Russia, M. Jadowsky had said that they did not want Constantinople; that they would not even object to its being administered by foreign Powers, but that the Black Sea was their house, and that within that house they wanted absolute security from foreign attacks. For that purpose, the outlet of the Bosphorus into the Black Sea must be in their hands. The Mediterranean might then begin at Beicos, opposite Therapia, on the Asiatic side of the Upper Bosphorus.

I should not, under ordinary circumstances, attach much weight to the observations of M. Jadowsky, who, though an able man, has failed in his career, and is on bad terms with his chief, but they deserve some importance when quoted by the French Representative as a statement of the views of Russia, to which he had listened with attention.

M. Cambon went on to say that it was not inconsistent with what M. de Nélidow had said on the subject, although going farther than he had ever done.

M. Cambon's private opinion appeared to be that such a settlement as that suggested would be generally acceptable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 247.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 981.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 26, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 865 of the 25th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna respecting the migration of Mouhajirs into the Armenian Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 247.

Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 115.)
Sir, *Smyrna, November* 20, 1896.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 31st ultimo, informing me of the Foreign Minister's declaration that he was ignorant of the emigration of Mouhajirs under Government auspices reported by me, I have the honour to send herewith copy of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Eliopoulos, giving further details on the subject.

I have &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 247.

Vice-Consul Eliopoulos to Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Monsieur, *Aivali, le* 13 *Novembre*, 1896.

J'AI bien reçu votre lettre du 4 Novembre. Sur le sujet en question du repeuplement de l'Arménie par des familles Turques, Mouhadjirs et autres de la contrée de ce district, j'ai, d'une source digne de foi, les informations suivantes. Le Gouvernement Turc central a beau nier le fait comme vous dites, cependant ceci existe: Sur son instigation sans doute, le Caïmacan de Pergame, dans le mois d'Octobre dernier, aurait invité à plusieurs reprises les Moudirs des nahiés d'aviser les familles Mouhadjirs surtout, mais sans exclure d'autres familles Turques, d'aller s'établir en Arménie, aux conditions notées dans ma précédente lettre.

Les Moudirs devaient dresser chacun une liste contenant le nombre et les noms des personnes qui auraient déclaré ce désir, et ces mêmes personnes, après cela, devaient être prêtes à partir à destination immédiatement après le retour de la réponse accompagnée par les fonds nécessaires au voyage.

Bien que du Nahié d'Ayasmat cinquante familles se sont inscrites, qui, étant tout à fait prêtes depuis, attendent le signal de départ, car, confiantes à l'ordre, elles vendirent tous les objets de ménage et de profession, munitions, bœufs de culture, bourrages, ustensils et outils, cabanes, &c., et elles sont dans l'anxiété voyant que cet ordre de départ retarde déjà pendant quinze jours consécutifs. Il y a cependant des personnes qui sont déjà parti sans attendre, mais il y a aussi d'autres plus circonspectes, qui, instruites par le passé, disent-elles, ne se mettront pas en route avant le retour des personnes qu'ils ont envoyées exprès sur place pour s'informer de la vraie situation des choses.

Il paraît aussi que pour chaque caza d'ici, le caza de destination est encore fixé: ainsi pour les dérivés du Caza de Pergame ici, les Cazas d'Enderiné et de Marash là-bas en sont destinés. Je présume que pour le reste il en sera de même. Ils parlent d'un grand nombre de familles qui sont ainsi recherchées dans les vilayets environnants pour cette expédition.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ELIOPOULOS.

No. 248.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 982.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 862 of the 22nd October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Dr. Dickson, inclosing a letter addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Board of Health maintaining his refusal to allow some of the members of the Board to visit the prisons of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Dr. Dickson to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Constantinople, November 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Dr. Karacanovsky, the Russian Delegate, observed to the Board of Health on the 20th ultimo that the Russian Ambassador did not feel satisfied with the Grand Vizirial teskereh of the 23rd September, which was read to the Board of Health on the 13th October, and he requested the Board to renew the appeal it had made to the Porte to allow some of its members to visit the prisons of Constantinople.

On the 17th instant the Grand Vizirial refusal to allow this inspection to take place was communicated to the Board of Health.

I beg to inclose herewith three copies of Grand Vizier's teskereh addressed to Tewfik Pasha, President of the Board of Health, on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

Grand Vizirial Teskereh, dated October 30 (November 11), 1896.

REPONSE au teskereh de votre Excellence en date du 14 Djemazi-ul-Ewel, 1314, No. 69. Le Ministère de l'Intérieur m'a fait savoir par teskereh responsif qu'il ne conviendrait pas d'autoriser l'inspection d'établissements qui se rattachent exclusivement au service d'ordre intérieur et qui sont en dehors des attributions du Conseil de Santé.

Je prie donc votre Excellence de faire le nécessaire en conséquence.

(Signé) RIFAAT.

No. 249.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 983.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 955 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting the release of eleven further Armenian prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 115.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 12, 1896.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that eleven more Armenian political prisoners were released here to day. All these men are inhabitants of Erzeroum, and had been arrested about the end of September last at the monastery of Lusavoritch Vank, on the occasion of the unsuccessful attempt to capture certain revolutionary agents said to be in hiding there, reported in my despatch No. 100 of the 2nd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 250.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 984.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to foward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting the numerous depredations committed by the Kurds and the inability of the authorities to hold them in check.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 39.)
Sir, *Van, November 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that several cases have occurred in which Kurds have robbed Armenian villages. In some cases grain has been stolen, and in others the few remaining sheep and cattle have been driven off. I have urged on the Vali the necessity of putting a stop to this lawlessness. He has managed to capture two or three men; but he is obliged to confess that he is practically powerless, owing to the collapse of the police force, and the difficulty of obtaining help from the troops. The General commanding the troops here is not to blame. He means well and is on good terms with the Vali. I have often discussed the question with him, and it is clear that it is the ridiculous Turkish system of centralization which is chiefly to blame for the deadlock, while at the same time there is a very real fear, from the Turkish point of view, that as long as the revolutionists are on the Persian frontier, the Kurds must be dealt with most tenderly.

The local opinion here is, that the Kurds can and must be dealt with.

The first point to be considered, is how to deal with those Kurdish Chiefs who are officers in the Hamidieh cavalry. In spite of the article in the scheme of reforms dealing with this matter, it is quite evident that no ordinary pressure will ever induce the Turks to put these officers under the civil power. But it seems to me that it might be arranged that they should be liable to be dealt with by court-martial for offences against the civil power. The mere threat that their much-prized rank was seriously in danger would do much to keep them on their good behaviour. As I have before pointed out, it is quite wrong, from every point of view, that the officers of the Hamidieh regiments should be practically independent of the local military authorities. At the very least where, as here, there is a General of Division they should be directly under his orders.

The second point is the relation of the troops to the civil power. The police, for practical purposes, no longer existing in this province, security can only be obtained by the help of the troops. The Vali has asked to have a battalion placed at his disposal whenever he finds help necessary. Such an arrangement is impossible. There should, however, be no difficulty in arranging for the co-operation of the civil

and military authorities. If his Imperial Majesty the Sultan could be induced to issue an Irade authorizing the General Officer Commanding to support the civil power when requested by the Vali, without reference to superior authority; provided that, in his opinion, the employment of the troops was necessary, there would be some chance of bringing the Kurds to reason. It is nothing less than a scandal that the squadrons of cavalry should be sitting in barracks here while the Vali with difficulty collects fifteen or twenty mounted police to pursue some raiders with, it is needless to say, no practical result. Speaking generally, I am of opinion that the Kurds responsible for the late massacres can only be dealt with gradually and with considerable caution; but there is an urgent need for something to be done which will make it clear to all the Kurds, tribal and otherwise, that His Imperial Majesty will not permit these raids to continue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 251.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 985.)
My Lord, *Pera, November 26, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that at a meeting of the Armenian General Assembly, held on the 18th instant at the Patriarchate at Koum Kapou, Mgr. Maghanian Ormanian was elected Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, in the room of Mgr. Izmirlian, by 47 votes out of a total of 62.

Mgr. Ormanian was born at Pera in 1841, and belongs to a Catholic Armenian family. As a young man he joined the Society of Catholic Priests at Ortakeui known as Andonian, and at the time when the Armenian Catholic community was split into two sections, viz., the Hassounists and the anti-Hassounists, he adhered to the latter, and gained a great reputation as a preacher.

When, however, the anti-Hassounist Patriarch resigned, and was succeeded by a Hassounist, Father Ormanian, at the head of some forty Catholic Armenians, seceded to the Gregorian Church. He now holds a high position in that community, and has occupied several important sees, amongst others that of Erzeroum, whence he was recalled some years ago by order of the Sublime Porte. At the moment of his election to the Patriarchate he held the post of Head of the Theological Seminary at Armash (Ismidt), which he himself had founded.

Mgr. Ormanian, besides being a master of the Armenian language, is acquainted with both French and Latin. He is a Doctor of Theology, Philosophy, and Canon Law at the University of Rome, and in 1887–88 was Professor of Philosophy at the Patriarchal Academy at Etchmiadzin, a post which he resigned in order to avoid adopting Russian nationality. He is also the author of various ecclesiastical treatises.

The election of Mgr. Ormanian, which still awaits the Sultan's confirmation, is said to be popular amongst the Armenians, who attribute it to the influence exercised on the Sultan by Artin Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 252.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 986.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 958 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting on the situation in the vilayet, and the great difficulty of executing any of the promised reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Bitlis, November 10, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 59 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I touched on the subject of reforms in conversation with his Excellency the Vali the day before yesterday, but his Excellency only said that certain measures recommended by Shakir Pasha would be executed after examination. Practically nothing appears to have been done yet. The reform most urgently needed is perhaps a change in the manner of collecting taxes, but it is difficult to see how the zaptiehs are to live if their exactions from villages are stopped. I heard in Mush from an authentic source that zaptiehs starting to collect taxes were being instructed to treat the villagers with mildness and forbearance.

Robberies by Kurds in the Caza of Akhlat (see my despatch above referred to) seem to be continuing. The Christian village Kidzvag in that caza was, according to the statement of Kidzvag villagers, robbed last week of over 2,000 sheep. The Vali told me that Hamidieh soldiers were guilty of robbing in Akhlat Caza, and he complained with some bitterness of the difficulties he met in his endeavours to keep them in order. He especially referred to Zekki Pasha as giving him trouble by screening or favouring Hamidiehs. His Excellency did not tell me that he was speaking confidentially, but I believe he would prefer it not to be known that he made these observations to me.

It is generally reported, and there seems to be no doubt, that Shakir Pasha was robbed of part of his baggage by Modeki Kurds on the way from here to Sairt, and that one of the Kurds was at least fired at by a zaptieh by Shakir Pasha's order. I have not yet spoken to the Vali about this incident.

Shakir Pasha left Sairt on the 7th instant for Jezire in the Mosul Vilayet, whence he proceeds to Mardin and Diarbekir. As I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day, more than twenty Christians have been liberated by his orders from Sairt prison.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 253.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 987.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas, reporting a commencement in the execution of reforms, and inclosing a tabular statement of the prisoners still under arrest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 253.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Sivas, November 12, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that recently an order was sent by the Porte, directing the Vali to do nothing further towards carrying out the reforms. Two days after, he received an order to carry out the reforms in every particular. Two Christians Mouavins have been appointed, one to the Sandjak of Tokat, and one to Kara Hissar. No Mouavin

has been appointed to the remaining Sandjak of Amassia, or to any of the cazas. Shakir Pasha, when here, recommended their appointment to Gurun, Divrigh and Mersifoun. No Mudirs have, as yet, been appointed. The Vali informs me that elections are taking place in the villages, but they must be conducted with remarkable secrecy, as I can hear nothing of them elsewhere. Twenty-three Christians have been admitted into the gendarmerie, and are now in uniform, but have not received arms. The due proportion is over 200. I am told others are to be enrolled daily till the number is complete. The two recently appointed Inspectors of Justice have left for Erzeroum, and have done nothing beyond reporting that the prison is not sufficient to accommodate the number of prisoners, of whom I inclose tabular statement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. BULMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 253.

STATEMENT of Armenian Prisoners in Sivas Prison.

Awaiting Trial.					Condemned.				
Number of Prisoners Tried together on each Charge.	Prisoners' Village.	Time since Arrest.	Charge.	Number of Prisoners Tried together on each Charge.	Prisoners' Village.	Time since Arrest.	For what Condemned.
68	Kara Hissar ..	From 10 to 12 months ..	Aiding Tanil Chanah, the Armenian brigand.	20	Sivas ..	2½ years ..	Wounding a Turk.
11	Kharput ..	12 months ..	Political.	6	Amassia ..	2 to 3 years ..	Political.
24	Gemerek ..	6 ,, ..	,,	11	Tokat ..	3 ,, ..	Murder of Post Tartar.
14	Tuzla Hissar	From 10 to 12 months ..	Murder of Coddji of Public Debt.	4	Hafik Reni ..	3 years ..	Political.
5	Gandjuk ..	4 months ..	Murder of Turkish soldier.	3	Dirnik Gemerek	2 ,, ..	Theft.
2	Gurun ..	4 ,, ..	Political.	2	Sinjan ..	12 months ..	Rape.
6	Sivas ..	3 ,, ..	,,	3	Topach ..	18 ,, ..	Theft.
4	Sivas ..	1 month ..	Wounding an Armenian.	1	Kara Hissar	4 years ..	Murder.
1	Pienie ..	1 ,, ..	Political.	1	Sivas ..	12 months ..	Theft.
1	Sivas ..	1 ,, ..	,,	1	Sivas ..	2 years ..	Political.
1	Kharput ..	1 year ..	Murder.	2	Kantaros ..	12 months ..	,,
2	Gemerek ..	1 month ..	Political.	1	Sivas ..	12 ,, ..	,,
3	Mersifoun ..	7 months ..	,,	1	Pienie ..	12 ,, ..	Murder.
1	Sari Hassan ..	14 months ..	Murder.	1	Tokat ..	8 years ..	,,
1	Smyrna ..	2 months ..	Political.	3	Yeni Khan ..	12 months ..	Theft.

Khans condemned and awaiting trial	..	272
Christians condemned	..	62
Christians awaiting trial	..	145
Total in prison at Sivas	..	479

Sivas, October 31, 1896.

No. 254.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 989.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, copy of an interesting Memorandum which I have received from Mr. Dodson, Honorary Attaché at this Embassy, reporting his interview with the Armenian Catholicos at Echmiadzin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Memorandum.

WHILE visiting the Monastery of Echmiadzin on the 9th November last I received a message from the Catholicos requesting me to go to see him.

His Highness, after questioning me as to the state of Constantinople at the time I left, and as to the possibilities of a termination of the present Armenian troubles, asked whether the Sultan would succeed in appointing Mgr. Bartolomeos Patriarch, adding that such an appointment would be intensely repugnant to the large majority of Armenians. It was evident from the Catholicos' manner that he shared the views of that majority.

In reply to a question of mine, His Highness said that during the last two years 25,000 Armenians had fled over the frontier from Turkey into Russia, mostly from the Vilayet of Van.

I asked what would become of them. His Highness said that the anti-Caucasus was not capable of supporting them; there were, in the interior of Russia, large tracts in which they might settle, but they would not do so; they would wait in the districts round about until the spring in the hopes of being able to return to their homes, and if the situation grew more secure in Turkey, not only they, but many more Armenians who had emigrated into Russia before the recent troubles would return to Turkish Armenia; in fact, it was the policy of Russia to allow the present anarchy in Turkey to continue in order to induce Armenians to emigrate to her territory.

The Governor of Tiflis, whom I afterwards saw, also estimated the number of Armenians who had fled over the frontier by land at 25,000; he added, that of these, 5,000 had arrived in his district without passports.

(Signed) J. W. DODSON.

No. 255.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 379. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 27, 1896.*

UPON my calling yesterday on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Excellency at once read me a telegram he had received from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh reporting that there appeared to be a considerable modification in the views taken by the Russian Government in regard to the proposals for the introduction of reforms in Turkey contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 123 of the 20th ultimo.

M. Chichkine represented the matter to Marquis Pallavicini as a misunderstanding, the British Embassy having apparently derived the impression that the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh was opposed to your Lordship's proposals, which, as a matter of fact, was not the case, as they were, on the contrary, quite ready to take them into consideration.

With regard to the employment of coercive measures towards the Sultan, M. Chichkine believed that, once His Majesty was thoroughly convinced on the unanimity of the Powers, no such measures would be necessary, but should the Sultan continue to refuse the execution of the reforms that might be agreed upon, the Russian Government would

then not be indisposed to concert with the other Powers as to the mode of coercion which might be necessary for imposing their will on His Imperial Majesty.

I remarked to Count Goluchowski that, satisfactory as this information was, there could, in my opinion, be no question of any misunderstanding on the part of the British Embassy, as M. Chichkine's language to Sir N. O'Conor on the subject of the employment of coercion had been perfectly clear—an opinion in which his Excellency fully concurred—and he seemed to think that the Russian Government had been desirous of finding some pretext in order to excuse their sudden change of tactics.

Count Goluchowski himself appeared to be considerably gratified at this new departure at St. Petersburgh, but he insisted strongly on the necessity, once the proposed reforms might be agreed upon, of the Powers coming to a distinct understanding in principle on the eventual employment of coercion before any scheme was submitted to the Sultan. Such an understanding was indispensable if only in the interest of the prestige of the Great Powers, for they could not again expose themselves to the risk of a possible refusal on the part of the Sultan.

In the course of our conversation the question was then raised as to what grounds there can have been for this apparently sudden change in the views of the Russian Government, and Count Goluchowski seemed to attribute it to the fact that the feeling was gaining ground at St. Petersburgh that Russian influence at Constantinople was after all not so all-powerful as had been imagined, and that the Sultan was as indisposed to follow the counsels of Russia as those of any other Power, provided they were unpalatable to His Majesty. His Excellency thought that this had very likely been brought home to the Government at St. Petersburgh by M. de Nélidow, who was, of course, better acquainted with the actual situation at Constantinople, and that the apparent change of policy on the part of Russia might thus in a certain manner be accounted for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 256.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 381. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 30, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 379, Very Confidential, of the 27th instant, I have the honour to report that during a short conversation yesterday with Count Szecsen, the Under-Secretary of State, I gathered the impression that there is still but little confidence felt here in the sincerity of the assurances recently given by the Russian Government that they were ready to take into consideration your Lordship's proposals for the introduction of reforms in the administration of Turkey.

From Count Szecsen's remarks the opinion here seemed to be that the Cabinet at St. Petersburgh had at last recognized that the state of affairs at Constantinople was such that, if some measures were not taken, matters would come to a climax sooner than they had anticipated, and that, in order to postpone such a result, they had decided to appear, at least, to show a desire for the introduction of reforms, for, although the Russian Government were averse to any real amelioration of the situation in Turkey, yet they did not wish the final break-up of the Ottoman Empire to come before they themselves should be prepared for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 257.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 28, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of my despatch relative to the ill-treatment of certain Armenians in Vilayet of Janina, and to the position of the Armenian community at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure 1 in No. 257.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 103.) *Salonica, November* 27, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Prevesa, regarding the ill-treatment and dismissal of certain Armenians in the Government service in the Vilayet of Janina.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to report to your Excellency that the Armenians established in this town have not been ill-treated in any way by the Mahommedan inhabitants or Turkish authorities.

Their community is composed of 234 adults, of whom 158 are males, and 86 females, and of 90 children.

Twenty of the men are in the Government service, some of them occupying responsible posts: one, Iskender Pasha, holding the rank of Liva (Major-General), is Inspector-General of military hospitals; another, Kirkor Pashalian Effendi, is Director of the Sultan's Civil List; and a third, Humrouz Effendi, is Imperial Commissioner for the Oriental Railways.

Most of the remainder are engaged in various trades and industries, and are all peaceable and inoffensive members of the town.

I should add that when the late serious disturbances took place in Constantinople, the Vali, Riza Pasha, issued stringent orders to the local police to take measures for their protection and safety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 257.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

Prevesa, November 19, 1896.

(Extract.)

TWO Armenians named respectively Michalian and Hazarog, the former, Chief Engineer in the vilayet, the latter, teacher of the French language, have been dismissed, and Dikran Sethian, another Armenian, interpreter at the Custom-house in Prevesa, resigned his post and left for Alexandria, and he was attacked by one of the clerks, receiving, as he told me himself, a beating.

It seems that there are three more Armenian employés in this vilayet, one of them, Mr. Carabet, who has been serving in the telegraph office, and who, fearing lest he should be dismissed, begs me to try to obtain for him a post in the Eastern Telegraph.

He has a family, and if you can help him in this, you would be doing an act of charity.

His services extend over thirty years.

He is the chief for the International Department.

No. 258.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 43.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December* 3, 1896, 6·30 P.M.

M. HANOTAUX told me in the course of conversation to-day that he had wished to obtain from me more extended information as to the nature of the reforms to be imposed on the Sultan, and the method and object of coercion in case of their rejection by His Imperial Majesty before replying to your Lordship's Circular despatch of the 20th October.

I replied that the Ambassadors would discuss the nature of the reforms, and that I was unable to anticipate the result at which they would arrive, but that Sir Philip Currie had, I believed, for some time past favoured an attempt at creating a Turkish Cabinet, which should be really responsible.

His Excellency doubted the possibility of finding the elements of such a Cabinet,

and expressed himself as strongly opposed to even the mention of coercion, by which, in his opinion, Mussulman fanaticism would be roused, but, on the other hand, he trusts that by keeping the union of the Six Powers prominently and constantly before the eyes of the Sultan, the desired result will be obtained.

No. 259.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 4, 1896.

WITH regard to reforms in Turkey, Count Goluchowski to-day repeated to me that, without previous agreement for employment of material pressure in case of necessity, he was firmly decided not to join in any presentation of further reforms to the Sultan.

No. 260.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 370.)

My Lord, *Paris, December* 4, 1896.

I CALLED by appointment on M. Hanotaux yesterday afternoon, and was very cordially received by his Excellency, whose acquaintance I had already made at a private visit which I paid him on passing through Paris on my way home from Vienna.

Having placed in his hands my written announcement of my arrival as the Queen's Ambassador and my request for an audience of the President of the Republic in order to present Her Majesty's letter of credence, I asked his Excellency if he had any news of interest to communicate to me.

M. Hanotaux said that from the East there had come to him nothing in the way of news, except the general confirmation of the increasing danger of the situation. He proceeded to speak at considerable length of this danger, but in a vague and sketchy manner, which renders it difficult to make a clear and intelligible report of his conversation. This may have been his deliberate purpose, for before I left him he observed that as I had not yet been received in audience by the President our interview could not be considered official.

The increasing danger to which I have referred arises, as I understood his Excellency, from the fact that the "union" between the Six Powers is not sufficiently real to be efficacious. He implied that during the last few weeks its reality had become impaired, but he did not seem inclined to specify precisely in what way. When I tried to extract from him some definite statement on this point, he said that the "union" could only be efficacious if proved by continual demonstration—"by acts"—and when I asked him what kind of acts he referred to, he replied that advantage ought to be taken of every opportunity to show that a complete general accord exists between the Powers, and that they are influenced by a determination to put an end to all differences between themselves. Such an attitude would, he was convinced, exercise a far more potent effect upon the Sultan than any menaces of coercion. To such menaces, and still more to the execution of them, he declared himself strongly opposed.

I observed to him that the Russian Government seemed to be ready to consider the necessity of coercion, and I asked if he intended to send a written answer to your Lordship's Circular of the 20th October last.

He replied that he had delayed doing so in order that he might hear from me precisely what was the idea of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the reforms to be proposed, and the method of coercion to be employed should the Sultan prove recalcitrant. Are these reforms to be personal or constitutional changes? And are the coercitive measures intended to force them upon the Sultan, or only to prevent and repress the violent action of His Ottoman Majesty?

I replied that your Lordship's proposal was the simple one that the Ambassadors, who are the most competent men for the purpose, should discuss among themselves what is possible and best to be done; and that I could not take upon myself to anticipate what their decision would be, but that I could tell him that some time ago, at any rate, Sir Philip Currie held the opinion that a great step would be taken in the direction of

reform, could a responsible Cabinet be formed at Constantinople. I did not imagine that any one had it in contemplation to propound a brand new Constitution for Turkey. The laws and the existing theory of administration would, in all probability, suffice for the government of the Ottoman Empire, were the former properly enforced and the latter really carried into execution. It is because this is not the case, and because the authorities are almost universally corrupt and incapable that the Empire is threatened with collapse, and because the state of things suits the short-sighted policy of the Sultan. As to the methods of coercion, I could not take upon myself to suggest what they should be; but, taking a leaf out of his Excellency's book, I might remark that an outward and visible sign of preparation to enforce proposals, joined in by all the Powers, might very probably suffice. The essential seemed to me to be that the Sultan should know that the Powers had entered into an agreement to use coercion if necessary; but this M. Hanotaux would not admit, declaring that, on the contrary, it would enable the Sultan to throw himself upon the fanaticism of those who, while at this moment discontented and desirous of a change of system, would never tolerate even the threat of forcible interference.

M. Hanotaux did not quote the opinion of the late Prince Lobanow that the Sultan would always give way to the recommendations of a united Europe, but he evidently holds the same view, and is convinced that there is no limit to what can be done if only the Powers act systematically and intimately together. In this connection he referred to what had been effected in the recent settlement of the Cretan question.

In the course of our conversation, he inquired about the state of public opinion in England in regard to the East, and the extent of the agitation in favour of an isolated crusade against the Sultan.

I told him that although a certain number of people had made a great noise in this sense, I did not believe that their clamour by any means represented their influence in the country, and that while the agitation to which he had referred had never stirred the real depths of the nation, the successive speeches of Lord Rosebery and himself, and finally of your Lordship at the Guildhall had effectually smothered the attempts at starting a conflagration.

Before I quitted M. Hanotaux, his Excellency said that during his tenure of office he had been instrumental in bringing to an end many of the differences which he had found in existence between England and France; and that he confidently hoped to be equally successful in dealing with those which remain unsettled. He was sure that he might count upon my co-operation in this direction.

I told him that I cordially reciprocated his hopes, and that he might be assured that I would do my utmost to render the relations between us as satisfactory as he could wish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 261.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 479. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Constantinople, December 5, 1896, 11·30 A.M.*

YESTERDAY M. Cambon read telegram to me which he had received from Paris. It gave the substance of the instructions sent by the Russian Government to M. de Staal in London with regard to your Lordship's Circular of the 20th October.

His Excellency expressed much satisfaction with the terms of the instruction, and observed it followed your Lordship's proposal in all respects, except that the discussion of the means of coercion would be postponed until the Ambassadors had submitted their recommendations. He again referred to the question of the Straits, and to the solution suggested by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires (reported in my despatch No. 977). He had had several further conversations on the subject with M. Jadowski, which appeared to have strengthened his belief that the arrangement would be acceptable to Russia. But, he said, the initiative must come from England; Russia would never make the first advance. He was convinced that there was no use in disguising the fact that nothing of the slightest value could be done unless some control were established over the Sultan. If that were once managed, he did not see why things should not be kept quiet for forty or fifty years to come.

The French Ambassador's attitude gives me hopes that if once the Ambassadors enter into discussion, the result will not be unsatisfactory. The Italian Ambassador was received yesterday, on his return from leave, by the Sultan, who made his usual statements as to the complete execution of the Armenian reforms. M. de Nélidow telegraphs that no day can at present be fixed for his return to Constantinople. It is believed at the Russian Embassy that he will be appointed Foreign Minister, but will first come here to take part in the Ambassadors' meetings.

No. 262.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 265.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 25, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 68 of to-day I have the honour to report that upon calling on M. Chichkine this afternoon he told me, as I entered the room, that he had an agreeable communication to make to me.

He had seen the Emperor on Monday, and he was authorized by His Majesty to tell me that the Russian Government agreed to the proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, and that they would not object to advise as to coercive measures if the Sultan should prove recalcitrant, and refuse to accept the reforms unanimously recommended by the Ambassadors.

He thought there had been some misunderstanding, and he was glad to be able to clear it up. He had gone over the question fully with the Emperor, and had pointed out that from various quarters it was reported that the Russian Government objected to your Lordship's proposal, or at all events to that part of it relating to the possible application of coercive measures. This, His Majesty said, was not at all his wish. He was most anxious to give his support to recommendations made by the Ambassadors which were calculated to restore a better condition of affairs at Constantinople, and above all to prevent a repetition of the horrible cruelties of late days.

M. Chichkine then went on to say that he had drafted a telegram to M. de Staal in this sense, which he had submitted to His Majesty last night, and which had been approved and dispatched at once. It would probably be communicated to your Lordship to-day, and he trusted that its tenor would be agreeable.

In conclusion, he said that he had just told the Turkish Ambassador that the Emperor had now given his adhesion to your Lordship's proposal respecting the employment of coercive measures, and he begged the Ambassador to telegraph this to Yildiz Kiosk. He doubted very much, however, whether he would have the courage to do so.

I expressed to his Excellency my satisfaction at hearing that the Russian Government was now so much nearer complete adhesion to your Lordship's proposal, and said that I would lose no time in informing your Lordship by telegraph

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 263.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 266. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 25, 1896.*

IN continuation of my immediately preceding despatch it may be well that I should offer a few remarks in connection with M. Chichkine's language to me to-day and that held by him to Mr. Goschen on the 4th November, and reported in his telegram No. 60 and despatch No. 248, and to me on the 11th and 18th instant, and reported in my telegrams Nos. 62 and 64.

On each of these occasions M. Chichkine expressed in a very definite manner his regret that the Russian Government could not agree to the principle of coercive

measures against the Sultan, and he developed the several reasons that made them take this decision.

I might possibly have been mistaken in my own interpretation of his language, although it seemed definite enough, and hardly to afford scope for the indulgence of the hope which I entertained that in course of time they would come to another opinion, or that the Emperor would decide the matter in favour of your Lordship's proposal. But as to its sense and terms there could be no manner of doubt, as he had used similar language to several of my colleagues, who had repeated it to me. In conversation with them my object, however, was rather to attenuate its importance and final character, while I continued to place before M. Chichkine the reasons which seemed more apt to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the Russian Government. It may possibly be that M. Chichkine did not thoroughly seize the Emperor's views, or that other influences, or a reconsideration of the question led to better counsels. I did not, however, think it advisable, in view of the more favourable turn which the question had taken, to raise any discussion as to how the misunderstanding had arisen, particularly as M. Chichkine allowed me, without making any remark, to speak of the satisfaction I felt that the Russian Government now agreed in principle with your Lordship in regard to the employment of coercive measures in case of necessity, and to remind his Excellency that he himself was of opinion that this was the only way of bringing the Sultan to reason. Neither did I think it well to dwell much upon the difference that still exists between your Lordship's proposal and the Russian consent to take into consideration the use of coercive measures, the more so as I looked upon the admission of the principle as the essential point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 261.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 266. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 27, 1896.*

M. DE NELIDOW called on me this afternoon and told me he expected to return to Constantinople next week.

In the course of conversation I noticed that although he still referred to the condition of affairs in Turkey as very bad there was, nevertheless, a sensible difference in his language from that which he had used to me when I saw him a few days after his arrival.

He now spoke as if the "decomposition" might not be so great as people thought, and that if the winter and early spring passed without mishap things might improve. He still thought a radical improvement impossible, as the body was too ill to allow a complete cure; but palliative measures might be used, and to this the Powers should turn their attention.

He alluded to your Lordship's proposals and to the French financial scheme, saying that the former coincided with the views of the other Powers, and that the latter was merely a detail which did not affect the general question.

He said he was trying to arrange for a considerable increase of the crews on board the Russian "stationnaires," so that if need be he could land at least 600 men.

The impression I derived from the few remarks he made was that, although Russia was willing to co-operate with the other Powers in recommending steps likely to delay the inevitable crisis, she would not heartily support any drastic measures tending to remove the gangrene and to restore the body to a healthy condition, more especially measures which were imposed by the Representatives of the Powers in conclave.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 265.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord. *Constantinople, November 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the French Ambassador showed me a Report which he had received from his Consul at Aleppo stating that Armenian girls were sold there as slaves and quoting, in support of his statement, the evidence of an Austrian doctor who had been requested by a Mussulman purchaser to examine one of these girls.

I telegraphed to the Acting British Consul at Aleppo inquiring whether he was in a position to confirm this news. Mr. Catoni has replied that though he had heard such statements he had, in spite of careful inquiry, been unable to establish the truth of them, or to ascertain how they originated. Mr. Catoni added that the French Consul, whom he had questioned, maintained that two such cases had been reported to him, but that it would be almost impossible to obtain any proofs.

I am informed by Mr. Fitzmaurice that he has little doubt that such sales took place in the Vilayet of Aleppo, while he was at Ourfa and Birejik, though it would be difficult to obtain positive proof of their occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 266.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 991.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 1, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, on the subject of the arrest of Druses in connection with the outbreak in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Damascus, November 14, 1896.*

DURING the last few days the Mushir, Abdullah Pasha, has been sending troops to the east centre and south of the Jebel Druse, and has arrested numbers of the population as evil-disposed persons or as conscripts. Some villages have also been plundered. No reprisals were made by the Druses, the fighting portion of whom is either in the Ledja or on the borders.

On the 9th instant the village of Khukhuleh was attacked and pillaged; six Druses were killed and twenty-four arrested. On the 10th instant and following days, Sujun Samea, Taaleh, and Mejdel Hazimeh, were attacked, and 107 Druses, including four Sheikhs, were made prisoners. These villages are all in the east centre of the Jebel. Four hundred odd were arrested in the southern district. In all 550 prisoners have been taken.

Of these 250 have been sent to Beirout, *en route* for Tripoli of Barbary, their place of exile.

It is difficult to understand the policy of the Mushir in thus arresting those Druses who had returned to their homes, and were living peaceably. In fact, at the present moment it is not by any means clear what the Ottoman Government intends to do in this matter.

The Druses are reported to be in a most miserable plight, and to be suffering great hardship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 267.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 992.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 1, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond in regard to the orders received by the Vali with reference to the emigration of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 18, 1896.

THE various instructions received by the Vali respecting the ingress and egress of Armenians are, if not conflicting, somewhat perplexing. Their want of consistency, however, is not an altogether unmixed evil, as it happily affords Governors, unconsciously perhaps, a certain latitude for the exercise of their own judgment.

Hence it is that the orders of the Porte in this connection have not been very strictly complied with at Trebizond. Armenians, for instance, few though in number, have been allowed to leave without going through the new formalities of depositing their photographs and producing guarantees to return. Such of them besides as profess the Catholic faith are treated as though they belong to another race, exempted as they are from most of the restrictions imposed on Gregorians. The surety, moreover, required of each Armenian resident is not exacted with any undue severity, for the authorities content themselves readily enough with the assurances of the Bishopric and the village Headmen that there are no bad characters denounceable in their midst or within their respective circles. Such outsiders, however, as may come in have to be reported, and if any of them cannot give a satisfactory account of himself, he is temporarily arrested and examined by court-martial. Twenty of them have thus been detained and liberated within the space of a week.

Of all the precautionary measures adopted against agitators and revolutionists, the most unreasonable is doubtless the limit of time allowed for the return of fugitives. A period of two months is surely not enough to inspire confidence in a people who had fled in dismay from great persecution and wholesale destruction. The Iradé was issued on the 9th October, so that only three weeks remain for such Armenians to re-enter Turkey as do not wish to forfeit their nationality, and by thus becoming presumably outlawed incur the confiscation of property. More than this, difficulties are raised against their return. It is only this very day that the Vali has again received an order to examine most carefully those who come back, as, it is added, although sureties are taken by Ottoman Consuls in giving *vises*, some arrive with passports belonging to others resembling them in features, complexion, and stature.

Scarcely two dozen Armenian families have as yet returned of the 1,300 and odd that had emigrated from here to Russia during the twelve months the exodus was allowed.

I have no figures for the whole vilayet, but as regards Trebizond and its villages the number of Armenians who had left the country is estimated to be about 7,000 out of 12,400.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 268.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 995.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 1, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 928 of the 11th November, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a general tabular Statement of all the cases tried before the Special Court, together with some remarks by Mr. Devey on the work done by the Court since the date of my above-mentioned despatch.

The Court, which has been going from bad to worse since its commencement, signalized the last days of its existence by the monstrous sentences passed on the prisoners arrested in consequence of the Haskeui Church incident, particularly by the condemnation of Bishop Eznik.

The sentences of the Mussulman prisoners from Candilli, though the severest pronounced on any Mussulmans, are shamefully lenient when it is considered that some of them were clearly guilty of murder. According to the daily reports I have received from Mr. Devey, 432 prisoners in all had appeared before the Court up to the day of its closing; of these, 260 were Armenians, 104 Turks, 2 Greeks, and 6 Jews; 98 Armenians were acquitted, 54 Turks, and 5 Jews, so that the numbers found guilty, 66 Armenians and 34 Turks, do not at first sight appear to furnish convincing proof of the partiality of the Court. It is only when we examine into the comparative severity of the sentences passed that we see the injustice of its proceedings. Of the Turks we find only 7 condemned to a term of 3 years' imprisonment and 3 to 1 year, the rest receiving trifling sentences of a few months. On the Armenian side there are 15 death sentences, 18 sentences of 15 years' imprisonment, 10 sentences of 10 years, 3 of 5, and so on downwards.

The whole work, however, of the Special Commission is doomed, as it has now been determined that all its sentences are to be revised by the Court of Cassation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 266.

General Tabular Statement of Cases tried before the Special Court.

Case of—	Short Description.	Number of Prisoners.	Article applied.	Nationality. Musulmans.	Greek.	Jew.	Armenian.	Sentenced.	When.	Remarks.
Ohannes Kumurdjian	Blaspheming Jews and seditious language	1	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Acquitted	October 29	
Jovan, a Janik	A Chief of the agitators	1	..	.. ..	..	..	..	.. ..	Pending	Claims to be a Hellene.
Kahvedji Melkon	Possession of explosives in Galata, and acts of sedition	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Fifteen years' hard labour	October 14	
Jafar	Possession of stolen objects	1	230	1 ..	..	..	..	Three months	.. 14	
Mollah-oul-Shahan, Kara-Hissar) ..	Sedition, based chiefly on letter received from his son, a boy in the interior	1	66 app.	.. ..	..	..	1	Three years' imprisonment	.. 14	A hard case.
Krikor, son of Bedros	Wounding Hussein, at Hasken, on the 27th August	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Five years' hard labour	.. 24	
Mollah Yazoujy	Seditious language	1	..	.. ..	..	..	..	.. ..	..	No information.
Sulieman Edhem Kiamil Said Ali ..	Possession of stolen goods	4	230	4 ..	..	..	..	Four months' imprisonment each	October 24	
Bayak Mollet Khan	Firing on Galata and wounding ..	10	57	.. ..	..	..	10	Nine acquitted. One only, Garabed, sentenced to ten years	November 2	
Krikor Asarkis	Seditious language and insulting Sultan ..	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Fifteen years' penal servitude	.. 19	
Nahhan and Ismail	Wounding Manuk	2	179	2 ..	..	..	..	Shahan acquitted: Ismail one year's imprisonment	October 26	
Mustafa Chawush	Wounding Morsen	1	..	1 ..	..	..	..	Acquitted	.. 26	
Bedros (barber)	Seditious language	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Three years' penal servitude	.. 26	
Magnerditch	Firing revolver in Galata	1	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Acquitted	.. 26	
Mesrob	Seditious language	1	(?)	.. ..	..	..	1	Ditto	.. 27	
Magnerditch (?)	Ditto	3	..	.. ..	..	..	3	Three years' imprisonment	.. 27	
Bogos, Khan	Armenians firing revolvers in Galata ..	9	230	9 ..	..	..	..	Mikhail ten years' imprisonment, two others acquitted	November 4	
Seven Moslem youths and two Persians ..	Possession of stolen goods	1	230	1 ..	..	..	..	Acquitted: two prisoners absentees sent 12 (?) months by default	October 27	
Hussein (?)	Ditto	2	230	2 ..	..	..	..	Three months' imprisonment	.. 27	
Aarif and Hamet	Ditto	1	230	1 ..	..	..	..	Three, ditto	.. 28	
Abdallah	Ditto	1	230	.. ..	1	..	..	Three, ditto	.. 28	
Abram	Ditto	13	..	13 ..	..	..	..	Five, ditto	.. 28	
Thirteen Kurds (Khoja Khan) ..	Ditto	1	..	1 ..	..	..	..	Acquitted	..	
Forsun	Stealing money	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Acquitted unanimously	October 29	
Krecker's Hotel	Armenians throwing a bomb at police ..							Boghos fifteen years' penal servitude, three others ten years	.. 31	
Ahmed, Salih, and others	Murder of an Armenian at Haskeui ..	5	..	5 ..	..	..	..	.. ..	Pending (?)	
Abdurrahman and others	Murder and wounding	6	..	6 ..	..	..	..	Acquitted unanimously	October 29	

Hassan, Soleiman, and Osman ..	Possession of stolen goods	3	230	3 ..	..	..	..	First acquitted, two others three months' imprisonment	October 31	
Kumuk Mollet Khan	Firing at soldiers on troops on 26th August	6	..	.. ..	..	..	6	Acquitted	November 4	No information.
Atchan-Sherif	Possession of stolen goods (?) ..	1	(?)	1 ..	..	..	..	(?)	..	Ditto.
Monastirli Mehmed	Ditto (.)	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Two years' imprisonment	November 3	
Krikor, son of Sarkis	Firing on troops	1	58 app.	.. ..	..	..	1	Fifteen years' imprisonment	.. 3	
Stepan	Ditto	1	..	.. ..	..	..	2	Acquitted	..	
(Arakian) Mirman and Yeressan ..	Seditious documents and literature	2	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Ditto, unanimously	November 3	
Agob	Seditious	1	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Ditto, by majority	.. 3	
Pyagi	Seditious language	1	..	.. ..	..	..	5	Four death, one acquitted	..	
Izmirli Ogla Khan	Bomb-throwing opposite Voivoda, 26th and 27th August, and wounding	5	58 app.	.. ..	..	..	..	Five months' imprisonment	..	
Ali and Muharrem	Possession of stolen goods	2	230	2 ..	..	..	1	Acquitted	..	
Oluntsi	Possession of arms and explosives ..	1	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Ditto	November 6	
Kumuk	Wounding	1	..	.. ..	1(?)	..	..	Ditto	..	
Kalenko	Woman accused of seditious language ..	1	129	1 ..	..	..	..	Four months' imprisonment	November 9	
Chard Eskeaf	Wounding Mardiros	6	58 app.	.. ..	..	..	6	Five death and one acquitted	..	
Engomeler Bank (Soviete Generale Ottomane)	Firing and bomb-throwing opposite Ottoman Bank	1	(?)	.. ..	..	..	1	Three years' imprisonment in fortress ..	.. 7	
Bedros	Seditious language (?)	2	222	2 ..	..	..	..	One year's imprisonment	..	
Ali Chausha and Mehmed	Breaking in and stealing	1	58	.. ..	..	..	1	Ten years' imprisonment, with hard labour	..	
Mugurditch (?)	Firing on troops							Acquitted	..	
Tektar	Sedition	1	65	1 ..	..	..	..	One acquitted, two three months' imprisonment	..	
Asram and others	Possession of stolen goods	3	230	.. ..	..	3	..	Three months' imprisonment	..	
Issa	Ditto	1	230	.. ..	1	..	..	Ditto	..	
Mahmed	Ditto	1	230	1 ..	..	..	..	Two to (?) months' imprisonment, one acquitted	..	
Mustafa, Hussein, Mohammed ..	Breaking in and stealing	3	(.)	3 ..	..	..	..	Six months' imprisonment by default, Hussein acquitted	..	
Ali an Hussein	Possession of stolen goods	1	230	1 ..	..	..	..	Acquitted	..	
Ghak Salomon	Theft	1	(.)	.. ..	..	1	..	Six years' hard labour (by majority)	..	
Arakel, son of Markar	Firing on troops	2	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Acquitted	..	
Oshan and Eliz	Possession of stolen goods	2	230	2 ..	..	..	..	.. ..	..	No information.
Hussein and Khalil	Murder of Stepan	2	..	2 ..	..	..	..	.. ..	..	
Mosses	Firing on troops	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Fifteen years' hard labour	..	
Garabet	Ditto	1	..	.. ..	..	..	1	Acquitted unanimously	November 10	
Nurullaglam Khan	Firing and bomb-throwing	9	57	.. ..	..	..	9	Three to fifteen years, six acquitted	..	
Theodorides Pharmacy ..	Bomb-throwing	5	58	.. ..	..	..	5	Four acquitted, one death	..	
Ali and Khan	Firing and bomb-throwing	2	..	.. ..	..	..	2	Acquitted (?)	..	
Fadil Effendi	Firing on troops	6	..	.. ..	..	..	6	Acquitted	..	
Artin	Seditious words and intentions ..	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Three years' hard labour	..	
Camondos Khan (steamboat) ..	Firing on troops	18	57	.. ..	..	..	18	Fourteen acquitted, one fifteen years' hard labour, three ten years	..	
Agop, Bedros, and Garabed ..	Firing from houses at Panar	3	..	.. ..	..	..	3	Acquitted	..	
Bebek bakery	Firing and murder	6	58 app.	.. ..	..	..	6	Unfinished	..	
Hasknei Church	Firing and bomb-throwing	27	..	.. ..	..	..	27	Thirteen acquitted, four death; seven fifteen years', two ten years', one three years' hard labour	..	
Khalil Pasha Khan	Firing on troops	6	..	.. ..	..	..	6	Acquitted	..	
Misrak	Threatening a soldier to extract information	1	57	.. ..	..	..	1	Five years' hard labour	..	

Locality.	Short Description.	Number of Prisoners.	Article applied.	Nationality.			Sentenced.	When.	Remarks.
				Mussulman.	Greek.	Jew.	Armenian.		
Trebizond	Persons accused of possessing stolen goods (witness appeared)	17	230	1	..	..	16	Acquitted (ten others Mussulmans of same nationality sentenced to six months' imprisonment by default)	..
Kaisarieh	Firing on cab	1	..	..	..	..	1	Acquitted	..
(Caesarea)	Possession of stolen goods and theft	21	222	21	..	..	..	Fourteen acquitted, two three years' imprisonment	..
	Firing on troops	1	..	..	..	..	1	Acquitted by majority	..
Kaisarieh (continued)	Four fresh accused, making twenty-two prisoners	6	..	..	..	..	6	Acquitted	..
		..	..	..	..	..	22		

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Memorandum of Cases heard by the Special Court.

SINCE my last reports (10th October and 5th November), no particular change has been observed in the attitude of the Court, nor have more equitable results been attained as between Moslems and Christians concerned in the disturbances so far as I can judge.

Upwards of 100 cases have been tried, and forty-eight cases of "jinayet," *i.e.*, felony, are now coming before the Stamboul Criminal Court, besides other cases of "junha," *i.e.*, crimes or misdemeanours of less degree before Lower Courts.

The general character of the evidence heard in nearly all cases is that it has been testimony on the part of the police. In most of the more important cases of sedition, as evidenced by the firing of Armenians upon the crowd or troops, it has been slight, and in any case, in considering the value to be attached to such testimony, it should be remembered that the police, by the nature of their functions alone, are practically in the position of accusers, and that they would naturally never admit that they or the troops had been the first to attack or fire through misconception or error, or for any other reason. Whilst far from suggesting that any aspersion be thrown on such testimony, I would merely suggest that it does not carry absolute conviction, even when supported by that of Bekji's watchmen. Further, in Galata there are a group of khans in close proximity whence firing was alleged; three or four police witnesses appeared in several of these cases, always the same persons, and it must have been very difficult, almost impossible, for them to recall accurately in each case the particular circumstances. In two cases a conviction was obtained on the circumstantial evidence only of firing having been heard, and smoke seen hanging about windows, viz, the Bousse Khan case (*vide* Memorandum of the 4th November), and a certain Muguerditch, if the name be correct (*vide* Memorandum of the 7th November). In the latter case the charge appeared to be not proven.

In the Izmirli Oglu Khan case the sentence appeared to me too severe, as the crime was not distinctly brought home to the accused.

Arakel, son of Markar, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment on the evidence of one policeman only, as the Bekji insisted clearly that he had not seen the accused fire, and was far from being convinced of his guilt.

Alexiadi Khan: I am not sure that this case was concluded, but judging from the evidence heard so far, there should certainly be an acquittal.

The sentence in the Haskeui Church case may be considered excessive, and especially the death sentence on Bishop Eznik, in whose case I am of opinion that no conviction even should have been found.

Only one case of murder of an Armenian by Mussulmans has been punished, three or four other cases having been left unfinished. The sentence of four months' imprisonment of Charid Eshcaf for wounding seems ridiculously lenient, whilst in other cases of breaking in and plundering Armenian shops, no mention has been made as to whether the owners were killed or escaped, or since disappeared. In the Candilli case it is notorious that one or more Armenians were killed and others wounded, but the authors of these outrages, if any of them were among the twenty-one accused of stealing or being in possession of stolen goods, have been sentenced to the maximum penalty under Article 222 (three years' imprisonment), and to the best of my belief no charge of murder will be raised on this question.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Constantinople, November 28, 1896.

No. 269.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 996.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 1, 1896.

ON the 12th November I received an appeal from the Rev. R. Chambers, a British subject, resident at Baghtchejik, near Ismidt, complaining of the action of the Turkish

authorities in interfering with his school and arresting his teachers and pupils on trumped-up charges.

I was already aware that the authorities were trying by means of a forged letter to prove that Mr. Chambers was in communication with the Armenian revolutionary organization in London, and that two unfortunate Armenians, named Boghos Courrian and Agopik Condayan, on whose behalf I have made repeated representations, had been imprisoned and shamefully tortured to force them to sign a paper accusing Mr. Chambers of distributing seditious literature in Baghchejik. I inclose herewith a statement of one of these two men, a respectable Armenian trader and agent of a leading English firm at Constantinople, narrating the treatment to which he was subjected.

Mr. Chambers' school is an American institution, but in this instance it appeared to me that the action of the authorities was directed against the person of a British subject. I accordingly instructed Mr. Fitzmaurice to proceed to Ismidt and make an inquiry on the spot, and I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of his report about the irregularities committed by the postal authorities at Bagtchejik.

I am making representations to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 269.

A Prisoner's Story.

I WAS brought to Constantinople and thrown into the "zundan" (a foul, dark dungeon). The place was slimy, filthy, absolutely without light, and infested with rats, which ran over my body and gnawed at my clothing. I remained there three weeks, and was never permitted to leave the cell to attend to any of the calls of nature. I was repeatedly beaten, until I vomited and passed blood. My clothing was soaked with blood. They placed me on my face on the floor; four men held me down, covering also my mouth to smother my cries. I fainted away several times. They had a paper purporting to be a confession that I was a member of a revolutionary body, and that that body had been organized and was directed by the Rev. Mr. ——— (an American missionary). They demanded that I sign that paper; they said they would immediately release me, present me at the Palace, give me a decoration and large rewards, if only I would sign. I answered: "Rev. Mr. ——— is a holy man; he is a preacher of the Gospel of Peace; I have no knowledge whatever of the existence of any such Committee as you speak of." Then they would continue beating me. Then they said: "Though it be not true, what matter? We have forced many men to sign such papers. Why should you not sign? It will not hurt you." I said: "I can say nothing more. I cannot have the guilt of innocent blood on my head." Then they covered me with a revolver, saying they would shoot me dead unless I signed; to which I replied as before. When I became very weak, and thought I should die, and prayed for a speedy death, they took me to the hospital. One morning they roused me, dragged me to a carriage, and drove me to the bridge. I thought they were going to hang me, but they put me on a steamer to send me away. When I saw I was going away from the scene of torture my heart came to me, and I immediately began to get well.

[When repeating his story the prisoner once became dazed, cast a startled look around, and exclaimed, "Are they going to beat me again? O! don't let them. if they beat me again I shall die," &c. There was absolutely no case against him, and the British Ambassador asked for his release on the ground of his innocence. Thousands of Armenians are similarly treated at the present time, and the Embassies cannot do anything to stop it.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 269.

Vice-Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Ismidt, November* 23, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in conformity with your Excellency's instructions of the 16th instant to proceed to Baghchejik and report on the proceedings of the authorities in regard to Mr. Chambers' school, I arrived here on the 18th November.

The action of the authorities in this matter seems to be the outcome of the idea entertained at the Palace that American missionary establishments are distributing centres of Armenian sedition, and of the rather prevalent desire of Turkish officials to make pecuniary profit out of the general suspicion in which Armenians are now held by imprisoning them on trumped-up charges, and releasing them on the payment of sums of money.

While Mr. Chambers is himself a British subject, his school at Baghchejik, being an American institution, is, of course, under the protection of the United States' Legation, but the action of the authorities in the present instance has taken the form of a personal attack on Mr. Chambers.

He is accused of being the medium for distributing seditious literature among the Armenians of Baghchejik, and in proof of the charge the judicial authorities have in their possession a letter purporting to come from an Armenian revolutionary in London, addressed to Mr. Chambers, with a request, in Armenian, on a hand round the contents (a very seditious document, also in Armenian), to hand over the inclosure to a certain Boghos Courrian. The letter also contains a reference to Agopik Condayan.

On the plea that it forms part of the papers in Court, the authorities decline to produce the letter for examination, but from private inquiry I learn that both on internal and external evidence it bears every trace of being a clumsy forgery, got up with the object of damaging Mr. Chambers and his school.

On my asking whether the authorities the London and Constantinople postal marks on the envelope corresponded, they were at a loss for a reply.

The signature is that of a certain Garo Muscovian, supposed to be the *nom de plume* of a former Armenian inhabitant of Baghchejik named Garabet Jelayan, but both the handwriting and style are quite different from those of other letters of Jelayan.

Moreover, at the present moment an Armenian revolutionary would be likely to choose a safer channel than the Turkish post for so dangerous a communication.

The authorities are unable, or unwilling, to state where and how the letter was seized, and I pointed out to the Mutessarif that they had no right to seize the letter of a foreign subject, the proper course being to forward a suspected letter to its destination, and open it in presence of the addressee.

Some time ago, owing to the present Armenian agitation, the postal business at Baghchejik was taken out of the hands of the ordinary postal authorities and handed over to the Mudir and his clerk, both of whom have anything but an enviable reputation. Under the new system gross irregularities have occurred. The authorities have refused delivery of letters to their addressees unless on payment of sums, in one case amounting to £ T. 1. Two letters addressed to Mr. Chambers from the Bible House have never reached him. Again, on the 2nd September, a registered letter arriving for him was not delivered, and on his inquiring after it, the authorities at first denied its existence, but finally handed it over to him in a damaged state, the envelope having been torn open. In fact, it would not be an unfair inference to suppose that the letter now produced against Mr. Chambers is the work of the Baghchejik authorities, who may have inserted in the envelope of a letter for him, illegally seized by them in the post, the seditious inclosure written to their order.

On my representing the foregoing to the Mutessarif of Ismidt, he summoned the Mudir and severely reprimanded him in my presence. He further agreed with me that the letter was probably a concoction, and in the presence of the Examining Magistrate informed me that as far as Mr. Chambers was concerned, the matter would not be pressed.

With regard to Condayan and Courrian, in whose case your Excellency has interested yourself, the Mutessarif privately gave me his assurance that though he could not officially interfere in judicial matters, he would do his utmost to have both men shortly released.

I further complained of the postal irregularities at Bagchejik to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs at Ismidt. He admitted them, but said he was powerless in face of the Mudir's gross abuse of his position.

I have strong hopes that as a result of my representations, the local authorities will cease their hostility towards Mr. Chambers, but at the same time I think it would be well if Her Majesty's Embassy were to address an official complaint to the Constantinople authorities of the postal irregularities, for which the Bagchejik is responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

No. 270.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 908.) *Constantinople, December 2, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput reporting upon the extortion practised with regard to the collection of taxes. I am making representations to the Porte with reference to the statements contained in Mr. Fontana's despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 270.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 55.) *Kharput, November 11, 1896.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams to your Excellency of the 16th and 30th ultimo, and of the 4th instant, reporting the extortion practised upon the Armenians of various villages in this district, and their brutal treatment at the hands of the zaptiehs intrusted with the collection of taxes, I now have the honour herewith to inclose copy of a Petition presented to the Vali and Commandant of Kharput by the Koja Bashi and other leading Armenian villagers of Perchench, submitting their inability to pay the arrears of taxes demanded from them, and the way they are consequently ill-used by the collector, Lieutenant Hamil Effendi, and his zaptiehs.

The statements set forth in this Petition, although rambling and reiterated, are, I fear, only too true. From all sides are to be heard similar tales of extortion and brutality, confirmed, in several instances, by the personal observation of members of the Protestant and Catholic Missions at Kharput and Mezreh. A French Monk who returned the other day from a neighbouring village, says that during his stay there he heard the cries of men and women beaten by the zaptiehs, and the thud of the latter's cudgels. A poor woman recently applied to the Catholic Mission for medecine for her husband, who was lying ill in bed from the bruises he had sustained from a Collector's bludgeon. I myself, upon one occasion, saw zaptiehs armed with thick sticks, who had just arrived in a village through which I was passing, to collect taxes.

Villagers, besides being beaten, have been left standing, I am assured, for hours together in a bent position with their hands tied fast to their feet, exposed to the sun during the hottest part of the day in summer, or kept standing up to their waist in running water for hours at a stretch.

Women are constantly insulted and invited by the collectors to defray a part of their families' debts to the State by prostituting themselves to the State's Agents.

The peasants when unable to satisfy the demands of the zaptiehs even with their last grain of corn, or oke of "bulgur" (boiled maize eaten as pilaf, and forming their staple food), have been forcibly deprived, it appears, of even their beds, or the few farming implements they may have possessed. In the village of Hoghi two houses, uninhabited in consequence of the death of their original owners, but belonging to the widows, have been pulled down and the timber sold in lieu of taxes. At Koyulu, one of the few remaining houses was destroyed with the same object. I am informed, moreover, that cattle given by the Red Cross delegates to the peasantry of the Eghin Caza have been confiscated by the collectors.

A list has been handed to me containing the names of fifty-nine villages situated in the plain of Kharput from which taxes have been or are being exacted with the greatest severity.

All these villages were, it seems, plundered during the disturbances last winter, and most of them partially destroyed. I have passed through some twenty of them, and have witnessed their ruinous condition and the poverty of the people. Among others the villages of Tadem, Sorsori, Coyulu are little better than a heap of ruins. In the village of Husseinick, situated at the foot of the hill upon which Kharput is built, nearly 500 Armenians were massacred, leaving in many cases their families without support, and, as reported in my despatch No. 19, dated the 27th May last, the Armenians of Ashvan, which figures upon the list referred to, were at that time in a half-starving condition, lacking furniture, bedding and cooking utensils, and subsisting, many of them, upon grass and wild spinach.

The same destitution prevailed in other villages, and was only alleviated in a measure by the constant and strenuous efforts of the Relief Society's representative here and his agents in other parts of the vilayet.

The large sums of money emanating from British and American sources, and distributed in this province, sufficed to keep the people from starvation during the summer months; and it was hoped that the harvests when reaped would enable the people to tide over the winter; but as soon as ever the crops had been mown, and before they were winnowed even, the tax extortion commenced. The fact of corn having been distributed—in meagre quantities—only four or five months ago by the authorities in the majority of the hamlets which are now being stripped of their corn by the same authorities constitutes, I would submit, a sinister feature in this sad tale of oppression.

In addition to the enforced demands for payment of the usual annual dues for the present year, arrears of taxes for the past twelve years are, in many localities, now being pressed for; and as no reduction is made in proportion to the decrease of the Armenian population, in many villages, by reason of the late disorders, taxes are being levied, so to say, upon the dead.

The Head of the American Mission at Kharput, who has passed close upon forty years in this town, assures me that he has never before seen or heard of such pressure, even at the time of the Russo-Turkish war, as is now being exercised upon the Armenians of this district, the majority of whom were formerly prosperous, but are now reduced to sheer penury.

The action of the local authorities in this matter is no doubt to be attributed to the fact of stringent instructions having been wired to them, as I am assured, by the Sublime Porte to extract £T. 100,000 from this vilayet at the earliest possible date; and that action can only be described as robbery, accompanied by violence, committed by the Agents of the Government upon the subjects of the Sultan.

It is feared that the cry for help from the Christians of this vilayet, which has suffered, it appears, more than any other, will be more bitter during the approaching winter than it was even before last spring.

I have made repeated representations to the Vali upon the subject, but without material result. Raouf Bey is naturally a humane man, but is, unfortunately, almost entirely under the influence of the Defterdar, who is more particularly interested in the levy of taxes, insomuch as the payment of the higher officials' salary (for which he is in a measure responsible)—and therefore his own—depends upon the levy in question.

In the course of a long conversation with Mustafa Pasha, the Military Commandant, I dwelt upon the misery which would inevitably be entailed upon the Armenians by the continuation of the exactions to which they were subjected; and I urged that before any further taxes were levied two military officers, in whom confidence might be placed, should be sent round to the villages to form an estimate of the losses sustained, and the total tax which might reasonably be paid by each one of them. I urged him to recall the Tabur-Agasi, who is notorious under the name of "Sari Mehmet," as well as Lieutenant Hamil Aga, whose misdeeds are well known. I told the Commandant that the Tabur-Agasi was generally accused of having himself conveyed kerosene in a cart to various villages which had been destroyed by fire; of having falsely reported that Armenians of Mezreh had refused to pay their taxes, whereas they had merely asked for information as to what sums they should pay; with having extorted bribes of 5, 10, or 15 liras from the Christians of several villages under promise of exempting them from further taxation, although he allowed them to be pestered and maltreated by the collectors a few days afterwards.

Mustafa Pasha was kind enough to promise that he would confer with the Vali upon the matter I had laid before him, but added that he had no right to interfere in administrative affairs.

The Tabur-Agasi (Sari Mehmet) has been heard, I am told, to say: "In former

years the poorest Armenians were able to scrape together 20 okes of 'Bulgur,' but this year few have collected more than 5 okes, and even that we have seized for taxes."

I suggested to the Assistant of Shakir Pasha, during the Commissioner's stay here, that the removal of this officer was greatly to be desired; the Assistant replied that he had himself already urged Shakir Pasha to recommend the removal in question, but without result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 270.

Petition.

(Translation.)

WE are poor Armenians of the village of Perchench, in the Province of Mamuret-ul-Aziz, and the distress under which we have laboured this year, and our extreme penury have been patent to all. In order, however, to pay our taxes to the Government, we have, since the date of the disturbances, handed over in payment of our debt even the relief which was distributed to us by the authorities after the disturbances in question; and, in addition to this, we have sold the rations collected and laid aside by us for our children's support, thus leaving them without sustenance and in the deepest want. In this way we have managed to pay about 26,000 piastres, being the total of taxes due from us for the present year.

Now, although the taxes of a few of our poor villagers have just recently fallen into arrears, the instalment of those arrears as fixed by law has not yet fallen due. (?) Be this as it may, a Lieutenant of Zaptiehs, Hamil Aga, together with a few of his men, came, a few days ago, to our village and, in order to collect the few arrears referred to, besides all arrears dating from the year 1300 (1884) up to the present time, being the accumulated debt of the poorer of our villagers, is harassing us in a way impossible to describe. Besides torturing us he ties our wives and children together, pushes them into the water, and beats them; and with unseemly language calls to the Zaptiehs under him, "Strike! strike! kill! and let there be a witness in the Elective Council (of the village) that I alone am responsible." He drags out and seizes, in payment of the arrears, the little grain we left in our houses to save our children from starvation; and whilst appropriating himself half the sum he exacts, leaves us a prey to the direst necessity.

The fact is that the sum due for arrears of taxes is merely the debt left by a number of the villagers who have removed to different districts. The collectors, however, pay no attention to our statements, and, after torturing us indescribably so that we may die of suffering, deprive us of our grain. We submit this Petition, therefore, in order that the dire need to which we are exposed, and the maltreatment and tyranny inflicted upon us, may be known to your Excellency.

(Seals and signatures of Koja Bashi and others.)

October 19 (31), 1896.

Inclosure 3 in No. 270.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 56.)

Sir, *Kharput, November* 10, 1896.

IN continuation of my despatch to your Excellency No. 55 of the 11th instant, I now have the honour to report that I have to-day had another long interview with the Governor-General upon the subject of tax collection in this vilayet. I urged him, in conformity with the orders telegraphed to him by the Porte, to recall the zaptiehs who are oppressing the people; to cause demands for payment of arrears of taxes to be withdrawn; and, in a word, to act not only with humanity but also in the interest of the vilayet which had been intrusted to his charge.

The Vali replied that he was well aware of the disgraceful way in which the zaptiehs sometimes acted, but that before withdrawing them entirely he had thought it his duty to telegraph to Constantinople for authorization to appoint regular collectors (as specified in the scheme of reforms), to the number of eighty-two, to take their place; that upon receipt of a favourable reply, the zaptiehs (to whom, meanwhile, he had given the most

stringent orders to refrain from molesting the people, and to exact only from such Armenians as were in a position to pay) would be immediately recalled; and that Hamil Aga, mentioned in my despatch of the date referred to, together with another zaptieh who had ill-used Armenian villagers, had already been arrested, and would be punished.

The Governor-General further assured me that he had done his best to prevent abuses on the part of the tax collectors, but that the Armenians themselves were in a measure to blame for the pressure brought to bear upon them; that he had called up the Koja Bashi and chief Armenians of several villages, and had urged them to themselves collect what sum the villagers might be able to pay, and to bring the money to him, in which case they need fear no pressure on the part of the zaptiehs; that in certain instances his suggestion had been complied with, but in others had been ignored, so that the only resource left to him was to send out the collectors.

Raouf Bey then showed me a list of seven or eight villages where only one-third or one-half of the tax for this year had as yet been paid; and he assured me that no pressure was being exercised for payment of the balance still due. I pointed out to him, however, that Sorsori, Tadem, and Coyulu, which had been reduced, as I myself could testify, to a mere pile of ruins at the time of the disturbances, figured upon the list he had handed me; and that, even if the Armenians there had paid only one-third of the tax due for this year, they must have done so at a great sacrifice.

I then once more urged that the rate of taxation should in each case be diminished in proportion to the financial losses suffered by the tax-payers of the different villages. The Vali assured me that he would do his best in the matter, though his task would be no easy one.

The Vali's concluding remark seems very true. The zaptiehs who extort the taxes have for the most part received no pay for the last twelve months, and this fact is not calculated to render them humane in a collection from which they hope to themselves receive a part of the money due to them by the State. I am happy, however, to be able to report that since the date of my last despatch no complaints have been made to me by Armenians of ill-treatment inflicted upon them by the collectors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

P.S.—A zaptieh, whilst escorting an American gentleman to a certain district the other day, told him that the zaptiehs collecting the taxes were obliged to put a portion of the sum collected in their own pockets, as they had received no pay for months past; and that he himself, whilst recently employed as a tax-gatherer, had pocketed 1 medjidié out of every two that he had collected.

R. A. F.

No. 271.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 7.)

(No. 999.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 2, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput as to progress made in the execution of reforms in his vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 271.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 57.)

Sir, *Kharput, November* 17, 1896.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed in your Excellency's telegram of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour further to report upon the progress made in the application of the reforms in this vilayet.

The Vali informs me that he has made preparations to execute every article in the scheme with the exception of those relative to the formation of nahiés, and the

innovations dependent thereupon, as the report of the Mutessarif of Malatia has not yet been received; and that he has submitted a project for the execution of all the other articles to the Sublime Porte, and now only awaits authorization to carry the said project into effect.

Among the 140 civil functionaries in this province he has suggested the appointment of 18 Christians in all, as there are at present only 3.

The judicial functionaries number in all 138, comprising 16 Christians, to whom 2 others are to be added. Officials encharged with financial affairs, amounting to 122 persons, are to include 16 Christians, of whom 6 are already in office.

The Vali states, however, that the formation of the gendarmerie is most difficult, as Armenians do not apply for enrolment in the force, although nine Armenians have been enrolled as police at Kharput, and seven at Malatia.

As regards the collection of taxes application have been made to the Porte for permission to appoint eighty-two "Tahsildars," or tax-collectors; and these officials, Raouf Bey tells me, have been selected for nomination with the utmost care.

The Governor-General has further reported to the Government that there is no Tevkif-Hané, or "Maison d'Arrêt" at Kharput, so that persons under arrest and awaiting their trial are confined in the same quarters as condemned prisoners serving their term; and he has requested authorization to erect a "Maison d'Arrêt," apart from the prison, at a cost of 170,000 piastres.

This estimate seems to me excessive, and I believe that one-half that sum would suffice for the object in view.

The Vali appears to despair of the literal execution of the Article relative to the disarming of the Kurds, and maintains that so long as they do not openly carry weapons, nothing further can be required. I would venture to submit that it would be unjust—as well as practically impossible—to disarm the Kurdish tribes of weapons such as knives and revolvers without also disarming the Turks, the majority of whom have for many months past habitually carried arms of the kind referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 272.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1000.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 2, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput, transmitting reports on the disturbances at Eghin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 58.)

Sir, *Kharput, November* 18, 1896.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Excellency a report upon the recent disturbance at Eghin, written by a European who has lately returned from that town after a fortnight's stay there, during which he made a careful investigation into the circumstances under which the disturbance in question occurred.

This gentleman is one of the most judicious, and, if I may be allowed the expression, level-headed men I have ever had the privilege to meet; and he is at the same time a man of the highest character, whose every word is pregnant with honour and truth.

I beg also to inclose a statement in Turkish,* written and handed to him by a Moslem official of standing, and which the writer was anxious to sign, although he finally refrained from doing so upon being reminded of the peril he would incur by thus testifying to the truth.

* Not printed.

The concluding paragraph in this statement entirely confirms the information imparted to me indirectly by a Moslem here, a few days after the massacre at Eghin, with reference to the responsibility of certain officials for the outbreak, as reported in my despatch No. 46, Confidential, of the 29th September last.

I now learn, however, that Hakki Effendi, the Acting Kaïmakam, who was the principal ringleader, has just been appointed Kaïmakam of Chemishgezek, and, therefore, promoted.

I would further invite the attention of your Excellency to the following fact, which may perhaps prove of interest:—

The correspondent of the "Times" telegraphed from Constantinople on the 16th September, as follows:

"The Porte has sent the two following telegrams to its Representatives abroad":—

(The first telegram refers to Armenians who had been killed and wounded in Constantinople.)

The second is as follows:—

"The Armenians of Eghin, owing to unfounded apprehensions of disturbances, have burned and deserted their dwellings, and have gone to barricade themselves in the steep hills near the town. Imperial troops who were sent to persuade them to return home were attacked and fired upon. Notwithstanding the rebellious spirit displayed by these Armenians, the Imperial Government has restored order, and all measures have been taken to prevent any recurrence of similar disturbances."

The disturbance began, as reported in my despatch of the date alluded to, on the morning of Tuesday, the 15th September, and lasted until the afternoon of Thursday, the 17th September. A telegram wired from Kharput to Constantinople takes several hours in transmission. The telegram, therefore, from the Acting Kaimakam of Eghin, reporting the cessation of the disturbance and transmitted by the authorities here, must either have been wired on the evening of the 15th or, at the latest, early in the morning of the 16th September, when the massacre was at its height. This fact, I would submit, is sufficient to prove the absurdity and mendacity of the telegram wired to the Representatives of the Sultan abroad.

The declaration made to me by an Ottoman official who had investigated the Eghin massacre, as reported in my telegram of the 8th instant, confirms that of my informant herein inclosed, excepting in so far as the number of victims is concerned, whom the former rates at 1,500, whereas the latter estimates them at 850 in all.

Many Armenians collected in the part of the town where the barracks are situated, through fear of a Kurdish attack. They were then summoned by the Acting Kaïmakam to the konak, and were attacked on their way thither and cut to pieces by the Imperial troops and local Mussulmans. They were unarmed, and made no resistance.

The Armenian Muraklass, who signed a telegram throwing the responsibility for the massacre upon the Armenians, has confessed to the Mektoubji and Mouavin of the Vali that he signed to save his life at a moment when members of his flock were being slaughtered before his very eyes.

In conclusion, I would add that a Turkish official, who is in a position to peruse telegrams passing through the telegraph office at Eghin, has declared upon oath, calling his God and his prophet to witness, that no orders were received from Constantinople or from Kharput for the massacre; that, on the contrary, stringent instructions were received to prevent an outbreak by every possible means; and that the whole blame for the disturbance rests with the Acting Kaïmakam and the local functionaries mentioned in the Turkish document forming Inclosure No. 2 to this despatch—the Armenians not having given the slightest pretext for an attack upon them.

No Mussulman was killed during the disturbance in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

Report on the Eghin Massacre.

Events preceding the Massacre.

THE city of Eghin with its suburbs contains some 4,000 houses, about evenly divided between Moslems and Christians. The city was founded by Armenians who fled from persecution in Persia. Its Armenian inhabitants were the most refined and intelligent of their nation, and prided themselves on being "the nobility." They were devoted to business, most of them having their business in Constantinople, while their residence was in Eghin. The city itself is built in a narrow valley between two high mountains. It has no fields, and all its food supplies must be brought from a distance; but the city was noted throughout Asia Minor for its wealth, and for the splendour of its houses and the sumptuousness of their furnishings. One house still remains, which is said to contain about seventy rooms. It is now occupied by soldiers.

At the time of the massacres of last year Eghin escaped attack by the payment of a ransom of 1,500*l.* to Kurdish Chiefs. At that time also the Gregorian ecclesiastics and other Notables of the Christian communities gathered up all the weapons in the possession of the Christians and handed them over to the Government, casting themselves wholly upon its protection. The city has been exceptionally free from anything like revolutionary sentiment or activity.

Some months ago the Kaimakam of Eghin went to Malatia for his health, and Eshki Zade Hakki Effendi was appointed as his *locum tenens*.

This man is a native of Eghin, and it is generally supposed that he has been scheming to bring about the looting of the city ever since he came into office.

Ten days before the massacre the acting Kaimakam summoned a number of the leading Armenians, and said to them: "You have among you a number of seditious persons, and you must surrender them to the Government." They replied: "We do not know of any such persons, and we have no power to make arrests. If the Government has information regarding such seditious persons, let the Government arrest them. If we are suspected, put us under arrest."

Three or four days before the massacre the Christians were greatly terrified by the coming of Haji Mohammed of Sarajuk to the city. This man took a prominent part in the massacres at Arabkir and the surrounding villages last year, so that among the Turks he was known as "Haji Mohammed the Conqueror."

It was said that he had come on private business, but subsequent events seem to indicate that he came to Eghin to arrange for the attack upon the city—a business in which he has had considerable experience.

The Municipality ordered 100 axes from Christian artizans several days before the attack, stating that they were needed for the fire department. These were subsequently used to break open the houses.

The Attack.

Monday, the 14th September, many of the Armenians opened their shops as usual, in obedience to the orders of the Government proclaimed by a public crier. A little later a patrol began to go about the streets accompanied by soldiers and officers, each squad having a trumpeter. This caused much alarm among the Christians, but Turks said, "There is nothing." A few, however, gave warning to their Christian neighbours. It is said that all Turks were warned not to give any aid to Christians, or shelter them.

The Christians were in great terror, and wished to close their shops, but the crowd of Turks in the market was very great, and they feared to incense them by closing their shops.

It is supposed that the attack had been planned for this day, Monday, 14th September, but the forces which were to join in the attack did not arrive in time. The acting Kaimakam and the Colonel went out to meet the Kurds, to whom they gave the necessary instructions. A great many Kurds gathered in the suburbs and in the vicinity of Eghin. Tuesday morning, 15th September, at 2 o'clock Turkish (about 7·30 A.M.), the Kurds began to descend the sides of the mountain behind the

city. The soldiers made a pretence of resisting them, firing volleys over their heads, and the Kurds feigned a retreat. Turning around the base of a hill they then threatened the city from another quarter. Again the soldiers opposed them. No one was injured on either side. At this juncture three shots were fired in the city, and immediately the soldiers ceased to oppose the advance of the Kurds, and joined with them in attacking the houses of the Armenians.

Shortly before this an Armenian, a member of the Municipal Council, received from the Government a telegram purporting to be from the Vali, ordering the preservation of the city. He sent out men to inform the Christians and reassure them, bidding them all come to the market. He himself was one of the first slain.

The Kurds devoted themselves largely to plunder, but the local Turks and the soldiers made every effort to exterminate the male Christian population.

Bands of Turks appeared in every quarter armed with the axes provided by the Municipality. They were for the most part men living in those quarters, and thoroughly acquainted with the houses and the people. They were provided with candles and lanterns, with which they searched every nook and corner of the houses for their victims.

The Armenians fled hither and thither only to fall before the weapons of the assailants. Some had dug caves, in which they took refuge; others concealed themselves in drains or in the gardens. For three days they were hunted and slain. The gates of the bridges leading across the river had been closed, and guards stationed on all the approaches to the city.

As soon as the houses had been looted, they were set on fire.

The market was preserved from looting and fire by a few soldiers stationed at the entrances, who said "Yassak" (it is forbidden) to all who would enter.

It is said that in the evening of each day the lists of the slain were given to the Government, and those not found in these lists were sought out with renewed zeal the following day.

The Attitude of the Armenians.

The Christians attempted no defence. Not a shot was fired by them, and I have not been able to get the name of a single Mahommedan who was wounded in the attack.

They begged for mercy in the name of God and of the Sultan, but it was denied to them.

Many stories have been circulated about the use of weapons or bombs by Christians. The only foundation I have found for them is this. Some months ago an Armenian leaving the city committed a box to the keeping of a friend in the suburb of Gamirgab, charging him to guard it with great care, as the contents were precious. Subsequently this friend had his suspicions aroused, opened the box, found it to contain bombs, and threw them all into the river with the exception of four, which he retained. These have come into the possession of the Government.

Cruelty.

In no place in this region has the attack upon the Christians been more savage than in Eghin. Every male above 12 years of age who could be found was slain. I found only one man who was seen and spared.

Moslems were not allowed to shelter Christians. The wife of the Director of the Tobacco Monopoly threw her arms around her husband's scribe, and entreated that his life might be spared; but the murderers placed a rifle under her arm, and shot the young man.*

Nicagos Effendi Jamgochian, the principal Armenian of the city, and a man of unusual uprightness and integrity, was shot in the streets, and those who passed by fired into his body until it was filled with bullets. His nephew, Melcone Effendi, came out of his hiding-place on Thursday, after an order had been given that all firing of guns should cease, and he was on his way to the Government when he was surrounded by a mob of Turks. He pleaded for his life, saying that his mother had no one else left to care for her, and reminded them that it was forbidden to kill any longer. They replied, "It is forbidden to kill with guns; we will kill you with stones," and

* The murderer was the Yuz-Bashi, brother of the Tabur-Agasi, "Sari Mehmet" of Mezreh.—E. A. F.

they stoned him to death. Seven out of the Jamgochian family were killed, including two little boys.

Alexander Effendi Kassabian took refuge in a house which was set on fire. He ran from the house into a garden. A band of Turks, led by one of his neighbours (Areef Agha), surrounded him.

Alexander Effendi pleaded for his life, saying, "I beg you in the name of God, I beg you in the name of the Sultan, to whom I am loyal, Areef Agha, spare my life." Areef Agha dealt him such a blow with his sword that the sword was broken; then seizing another he cut him down. A pole was then thrust into the mouth of the dead man, and the Turks said, "This is the way we give 'Beyliks.'"

Many children and boys were laid on their backs, and their necks cut like sheep.

An Armenian woman had two sons, 19 and 20 years of age, who had taken refuge in a Turkish house. The Turks dragged the young men out of the house; then they brought their mother from a neighbouring house to see them killed. Later, as this woman was seeking a place of refuge, one of her Turkish neighbours called to her, saying, "Come here, I have something to show you." Going to him he pointed to the bodies of her two sons, which had been cast into the street, and asked if she knew them. She replied, "Do you who killed them know them, and should I, their mother, not know them?"

Then he said, "Do you know why we killed them both? You always used to dress them both alike, so that we could not tell them apart, and now we have killed them both alike."

I doubt if history furnishes any parallel for this cruel spirit that gloats over a mother's sorrow for her offspring.

The women and children were gathered together in the yard of the Government building, and in various places throughout the city. Turks, Kurds, and soldiers went among these women, selected the fairest, and led them aside to gratify their lust.

In the village of Pinguan fifteen women threw themselves into the river to escape dishonour.

Deaths and Loss.

It is exceedingly difficult to estimate the number of slain, as a considerable portion of the male population of Eghin is always away from home engaged in business elsewhere.

A careful canvas of the city with its suburbs, ward by ward, shows that 857 were killed, of whom 52 were women. This does not include the village of Pinguan, and is certainly not an over-statement.

About 800 houses were burned, and 240 remain to the Christians. The financial loss to the city is estimated at £T. 1,000,000.

Humane Moslems.

It is a pleasure to be able to record the humanity of some Moslems at a time when the passions of their co-religionists were fired by fanatical zeal, and their avarice excited by the hope of great gain.

Mustapha Bey, of Khosbgeree, suffered no massacre to take place in his village. It is said that 1,000 Christians fled to him from Divrik and the neighbouring villages, and he sheltered, protected, and fed them.

Hussein Effendi, the Post and Telegraph Director of Eghin, exerted his influence to protect the village of Garachla, where only two men were killed.

In Baghchali, a suburb of Eghin, a Colonel, who had retired from office, and was living on a pension, showed kindness to many. His name is Hussein Effendi.

The Responsibility for the Massacre.

The responsibility for the massacre does not rest with the Armenians. The Government has utterly failed to make out a case against them.

Four men are principally responsible, Eshki Zadé Hakki Effendi, the Acting Kaimakam, the Colonel, Kara Bey, the Mayor, and Sehlik Zadé Hafiz Effendi, a member of the Executive Council. It is said that these men obtained about 100,000 liras worth of plunder.

The evidence which goes to fix the responsibility upon them is as follows:—

1. These men were in consultation with the Kurdish Chiefs before the attack.
2. The municipality furnished the axes used in the attack.
3. A telegram sent by the Local Government throwing the blame of the disturbance upon the Armenians was published in London papers while the attack was still going on. The presumption is very strong that this was sent before the attack begun, and the telegram is wholly unsupported by the facts.
4. September 16, the second day of the massacre, Alexan Avakian, an Armenian living in Gamshla, a suburb of Eghin, was summoned before the Public Prosecutor. Fifteen soldiers stood around him with drawn swords. He was told that he must testify that Nicogos Effendi Jamgochian, President of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, had gathered money for the purchase of weapons, which he distributed among the Armenians, and that among those who contributed to this fund were Garabed Kouyumjian and Krikore Eskijian.

Alexan Avakian objected to giving this testimony, on the ground that if any of the Jamgochian family should survive, the falsity of it could not be concealed. The Public Prosecutor assured him that all the Jamgochians had been killed, and he signed the document.

October 24, five weeks later, the Garabed Kouyumjian, alluded to above as contributing to the fund of the Revolutionary Committee, was summoned before the Public Prosecutor, and asked to give the same testimony that Alexan Avakian had given. He refused. The Public Prosecutor said to him that Nicogos Effendi Jamgochian was dead, and could not injure him, nor could his testimony injure Nicogos Effendi.

Garabed Kouyumjian replied that the charges against Nicogos Jamgochian were absolutely false, that he and all his family were loyal to the Government, and that whatever they might do to himself he could never give such false testimony. Subsequently the name appearing in the testimony of Alexan Avakian was changed so that it read Garabed Kouyumjian, son of Shereen Kouyumjian instead of Garabed, son of Krikore, as at first. The new name is that of an Armenian who was killed in the massacre.

5. It seems difficult to conceive that the local officials should have dared to form and execute such a plot without the connivance of the Central Government, and yet I have the most positive assurance of an official, who was in a position to know all that passed between the Local Government and the Central Government, that no orders for the massacre were received, but on the contrary, the strongest orders were sent both from Constantinople and the vilayet that no disturbance should be allowed.

It is possible that the conspirators relied upon the credence which would be given to their charges against the Armenians to the effect that they were the cause of the disturbance to shield themselves.

And yet notice has appeared in a paper printed in Constantinople of a decoration bestowed upon the Acting Kaimakam since the massacre.

The city of Eghin is hopelessly ruined. There is no chance for the Armenians to succeed in business there, and their only thought is how to get away.

In one quarter of the city only two adult males survive, in another, out of sixty-two adult males, fifty-six were killed. This destruction of the bread-winners leaves the women and children in hopeless destitution.

It should be remembered that the massacre at Eghin takes place a year after the massacres of last year. It has created a very bad impression on this account in all this region, because it seems to make worthless every promise of reform.

No. 273.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1001.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 2, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting as to the progress of reforms in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, November* 17, 1896.

THE following measures have been taken here for the execution of the reform scheme:

The proportion of Christians to Moslems in the vilayet is reckoned at 18 per cent.

There are at present 1,150 zaptiehs in the vilayet, of whom 150 were appointed provisionally after the massacre; 180 Christians are to be appointed, of this number 19 have actually been appointed, in addition to the 1,150 who are all Moslems. The Vali proposes to dismiss the provisional 150 and put the Christians in their place. This measure awaits sanction.

Thirteen Christian policemen have been appointed, which is the proper proportion on the basis of 18 per cent.

In the whole vilayet there are 475 civil functionaries, exclusive of the judicial officials, who, the Vali tells me, are not included in reckoning the proportion of Christians to be employed. At present there are fifty-nine Christian employés, it is proposed to raise their numbers to the proper proportion as vacancies occur. All important posts are, of course, occupied by Moslems.

It is proposed to form about forty nahies of which two will be Christian: one in the Caza of Silouan, the other in that of Jezíré. Lists of persons eligible for the post of Mudir are being drawn up.

A Commission has been formed for the inspection of prisoners.

A Commission has also been formed for the examination of title-deeds, but the Vali tells me it is not quite understood what are to be the duties and powers of this Commission, and reference has been made to Constantinople.

Agents for the collection of taxes are being appointed.

In general I may say that I do not notice any particular reluctance on the part of the local authorities to carry out at any rate the letter of the reform scheme.

The are somewhat hampered by the instructions to keep the vilayet Budget within its present limits. The zaptiehs' is already seven or eight months in arrears, so that any additional members of the force would stand a poor chance of drawing any pay.

Further, all measures have to be referred for approval to Constantinople, and there seems to be considerable delay in the transmission of definite decisions from head-quarters.

Nothing has been done towards the appointment of efficient Kaïmakams, but it seems invidious to refer specially to them, for the whole administration from top to bottom is corrupt and utterly indifferent to the well-being of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 274.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1002.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 2, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 309 of the 20th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Williams, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the condition of the Nestorians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Van, November* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch dated the 28th October, together with three inclosures, which I herewith return.

As regards the first point dealt with by Sir F. Goldsmid, there can be no doubt that

the Persian authorities have, in the past been, to say the least of it, extremely lax in their duty. I hear, however, that at the end of October, a serious effort was being made to bring the Kurds mentioned in Mr. Edington's letter to reason. This action is probably due to the representation of the Joint Frontier Commission, which has been inquiring into the raids at Gawar. The great difficulty of controlling the frontier lies in the fact that three Kurdish tribes have been divided by it, viz., the Haideranli, Milanli, and Shikkak, or Shishaknar. As I write, I hear that the Persian Milanli Kurds have raided some Yezidi villages in Turkish territory, carrying off a number of sheep. This raid was probably organized by the Turkish Milanli, who are very angry with the Yezidis because they have been helping the Rustutionals; at the least, it is quite certain that if the Turkish Milanli had not consented, the raid could not have taken place. In the same way the raids on the villages referred to in Mr. Edington's letter, and reported by me in my despatch of the 15th September, could not have taken place without, at least, the consent of the Turkish Shikkak Kurds. Sheikh Sadik has great influence among these Kurds, and there is no doubt that he is more or less responsible for what has happened. I am afraid his arrest would not be the easy matter Sir F. Goldmid imagines, more especially after he has been pronounced to be innocent of the murder of the Bishops. As I have already stated, I believe him to be guilty, and he ought, at least, to be removed. Before, however, this can be done, the Vali's hands must be strengthened by military support. As regards the notice from the Sublime Porte, such an inquiry as has been held could not prove otherwise than abortive. The Artushi raid on the Nestorians of Tayari is notorious, and cannot be denied; generally speaking, the Nestorians have come very well through these troublesome times. There is no idea of coercing them if they will only keep reasonably quiet; indeed, I think they are regarded more favourably by the Government than heretofore. It must not be thought that these Nestorians are in the same case as the wretched Armenian peasants. The main body of them live in almost inaccessible mountains; they have plenty of arms, which they are quite prepared to use on the Kurds at the least provocation. At the present moment the Tayari men are only being kept quiet with difficulty—on my strong recommendations—that foolish action on their part now would be the greatest folly imaginable. I do not think there is any cause for the friends of the Nestorians to be alarmed. I am in constant communication with Mr. Browne, and I have found the local authorities well disposed towards their people, whose state is a happy one when compared with that of the wretched Armenian peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 275.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1003.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 2, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting on the reforms alleged to have been carried out in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 275.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 118.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 19, 1896.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Excellency's Circular of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose the accompanying Memorandum commenting, Article by Article, upon the statement communicated to your Excellency by the Sultan's orders, showing what is alleged to have been done towards executing the reforms.

My observations relate to the Vilayet of Erzeroum only, and, as your Excellency will perceive, are largely based upon information furnished to me by the Vali of Erzeroum in the course of a conversation I had with him on the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 275.

Memorandum by Consul Graves.

ARTICLE 1.—No observation.

Articles 2, 3, and 4.—The appointment of Delenda Effendi as Moavin to the Mutessarif of Erzingian has been announced; also the appointment of Moavins to the Kaimakams of Baiburt and Keghi.

Article 5.—I am informed by the Vali that, so far, eleven Christian officials have been appointed to minor administrative posts, such as Mal-Mudirs, &c., and that others will be appointed as vacancies occur.

Article 6.—The Vali has issued orders that the elections to the Councils of Administration, which have of late been conducted with some irregularity, be made in conformity with the Regulations.

Articles 7 to 16.—Shakir Pasha's nahié scheme has not been approved by the Porte, but the Vali has received instructions to proceed with the creation of nahiés in this vilayet at his own discretion, and is only awaiting supplementary information, topographical and otherwise, from outlying cazas, before carrying out these orders with all possible dispatch.

Articles 17 and 18.—The formation of the Nahié Councils will follow the creation of the nahiés.

Article 19.—Taib Bey and Yorghaki Effendi, Judicial Inspectors for Sivas and Erzeroum, arrived here the 5th November from Erzingian, and have gone on to inspect the southern cazas before the roads are closed by snow.

Articles 20 and 21.—Eighteen Christian police officers and policemen have been enrolled at Erzeroum and in the sandjaks and cazas. This number is slightly in excess of the proportion allowed for in Shakir Pasha's scheme. At Erzeroum they appear to have rendered considerable service in following up Armenian revolutionary agents.

Articles 22 and 23.—Christian gendarmes to the number of 51 have been enrolled in this vilayet, out of 218 allowed for in Shakir Pasha's scheme. They have now been armed and are employed on active service. The Vali states that notwithstanding three appeals to the Christian population, no further candidates for the gendarmerie are forthcoming. This result is not surprising, considering the irregularity with which that force is paid.

Article 24.—No observation.

Article 25.—The Judicial Inspectors, as remarked above, have proceeded to the southern cazas, and, so far as I can learn, have as yet presented no Report on the state of the Erzeroum prisons. My own unofficial information on the subject is as follows: Although I believe that the Vali is really concerned for the welfare of prisoners of all denominations, and has given strict orders forbidding their ill-treatment, released prisoners are unanimous in declaring that many abuses continue to exist. Prisoners under examination are said to be removed at night to the police office, and unmercifully beaten for the purpose of extorting confessions. With the same object, refractory prisoners are said to be confined in small cells, where they can neither stand upright nor lie at full length, rest and sleep being thus rendered almost impossible. The sanitary arrangements are deplorable, prisoners being only allowed out twice a-day in large batches, under guard and for a very short period, for the purpose of relieving nature. The cells are only swept out once a-fortnight. Notwithstanding the severe cold, no covering nor warm clothing is supplied to such prisoners as are without them, and the cells are rarely, if ever, warmed. Prisoners awaiting trial are not fed, but I believe that now, on their presenting a petition and pleading poverty, a ration of bread is issued to them. All these statements deserve minute inquiry on the part of the Inspectors, who should also take note of the heavy prison death rate of the past years. At the same time, I believe the condition of the Erzeroum prisons to be superior to that of most of the gaols in the interior.

Article 26.—Though a Council of Inspection has been formed, and is, according to the Vali, in the exercise of its functions, I have not yet heard of any case in which it has intervened for the protection of persons improperly arrested and detained by the police.

Article 27.—In this vilayet there is only one tribe of nomad Kurds, in the district of Bayazid, and the Vali assures me that this year they have been escorted by troops on their return from their summer pasturages.

Article 28.—Privates of the Hamidieh cavalry, in common with all the Mussulmans of the country, continue to carry arms freely as before. But, by the Vali's orders, they

are not allowed to bring them into the principal towns. The privates may be technically subject to the Civil Tribunals, but their graver misdeeds are invariably committed under the direction of their chiefs, who are usually Hamidieh officers, and, as such, refuse to admit the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts.

Article 29.—The scheme for the creation of these Councils is still under consideration in the Council of State, and nothing can be done locally in the meanwhile.

Article 30.—Taxes have been collected by zaptiehs, if anything, with greater severity than usual. No Tahsildars have been appointed.

Article 31.—The tithes have, I hear, been adjudicated in smaller lots than in former years, and attempts have been made to induce the villagers to buy in their own tithes, but without much effect.

The Regulations for forced labour on public works have been carried out more strictly than formerly, but there has been much complaint of the hardship of impressing large numbers of labourers for road construction at the very moment of the harvest.

Christian schools receive no subventions from public funds, but this year the offer has been made to Christian schools here to provide them with a Turkish teacher each, at the expense of the Department of Public Instruction.

No. 276.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 1004.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul-General at Beirout reporting the arrival and detention there of large numbers of Druse prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Acting Consul-General Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 69.)

Sir, *Beirout, November 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Druse prisoners, numbering about 370, who recently arrived here from Damascus, and were reported to have been shipped for another province, are still detained at Beirout.

It is stated that in all 800 Druses have recently been taken prisoners in the Hauran, of whom 600 are to be compelled to serve as conscripts.

According to a Notice which appeared in the newspapers, the prisoners have been embarked already for another port, but the statement was incorrect, and it is rumoured that the continued detention of the prisoners here is in conformity with orders received from Constantinople countermanding the instructions previously issued for their embarkation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 277.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 1005.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul-General at Beirout, relative to the introduction of reforms into that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 277.

Acting Consul-General Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Beirout, November 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that orders have been received by his Excellency the Vali relative to the introduction of the reforms into this province. These directions, however, were couched in terms so vague that his Excellency has referred to the Central Government for clearer instructions to enable him to carry out the plan of reforms.

It is stated that the new Committee formed under his Excellency's presidency, in accordance with the provisions of the reforms, is composed of six Government officials, three of whom are Moslems, the others being Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 278.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1006.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul-General at Beirout, reporting several cases of assassination of Christians in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Acting Consul-General Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Beirout, November 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last few days public feeling has been excited by the occurrence of some cases of assassination in this city.

On the night of the 19th instant some Moslems created a disturbance by attacking a shop occupied by Christians, two combatants on either side being wounded in the fray. A native Christian who happened to be passing along the road near the scene of the disturbance was subsequently stabbed and seriously wounded by a Mussulman, though wholly unconnected with the dispute.

Four Christians were at once arrested by the police in connection with the disturbance, and on the following day the Moslem who stabbed the Christian after the fray was also arrested.

The authorities appear to have acted with promptitude in the matter, and their action has had a tranquillizing effect.

On the evening of the 21st instant, however, a native Christian, while walking along a road, was murdered by a Moslem, who, taking his victim unawares, shot him from behind with a revolver. The murdered man's brother, who was walking on in advance, on turning back to see what had happened, was also shot at, but fortunately escaped injury. The wounded man, however, being unable to speak, could make no statement, death resulting in a few hours. The police shortly afterwards arrested a Moslem who was found to be in the possession of a revolver from which two bullets had recently been discharged.

Again, the discovery of the body of a gendarme on the 22nd instant caused dismay among the Christians, as it was feared that the Moslems might accuse their Christian neighbours, and take reprisals, but the timely discovery by the police of evidence showing the guilt of another gendarme, who left the city directly after the murder of his comrade, has probably averted further bloodshed.

I have the honour to add that the authorities have taken measures to prevent disorder by causing the streets to be regularly patrolled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 279.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1007.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas reporting on the financial position of the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Sivas, November 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following details regarding the financial position of the Sivas Vilayet.

In 1894, the last year in which the condition of affairs was normal, the commercial transactions, as accurately as can be estimated in a country without statistics, were as follows:—

	£
Importations	140,000
Exportations	100,000

In 1895, up to end of October, that is, up to the time that disorders commenced in the province, they were—

	£
Importations	62,440
Exportations	41,640

In the present year, 1896, for six months, up to end of June, they were—

	£
Importations	15,440
Exportations	8,280

The importations, during these six months of 1896, are almost entirely articles of absolute necessity, such as petroleum, &c. The diminution is due to the number of Armenian merchants, killed or emigrated. Not more than 10 per cent. of those, formerly engaged in commerce, are now carrying on business, and those only to a very limited extent. A few Mussulmans have endeavoured to share in the trade of the district, but have no aptitude for it. The diminution is also due to the difficulty of getting credit. All transactions this year have been conducted with ready money, and except petroleum from Batoum and a few articles, such as soap, from the Aleppo and Aintab district, have been conducted exclusively with Constantinople.

The sources of revenue of the Government of the province are as follows. The sums given are the amounts collected for the year ending the 29th February, 1896:—

	£ T.
Tax on land and houses	69,277
Tax on income derived from commerce or trades	22,201
Tax on sheep and goats	66,024
Exemption from military service	31,533
Sale of tithes	165,107
Tithes unsold, farmed by Government	8
Rent of property belonging to Government	651
Tax on sale of cattle at fairs, half of which is paid to Municipality and half to the Treasury	3,458*
Forests, and right of cutting wood for construction	2,647
Mines	338
Tax on transfer deeds of sales	8,204
Fees from law proceedings	5,389
Interest on money due to Government, and certain fines	4,811
Special tax on tithes for educational purposes	1,943
Total	343,311

* Exclusively Treasury.

The return of sale of tithes this autumn is £ T. 118,260, or a diminution of £ T. 46,847.

The expenditure of Government for year ending the 29th February, 1896, was as follows:—

	£ T.
Department of Minister of Interior	18,015
Department of Finance	10,888
Pensions to families of deceased officials	2,702
Ecclesiastical Department	4,502
Department of Justice	10,981
Collection of taxes..	6,659
Forest Department	463
Zaptiehs	26,178
Police Department	2,204
Compensation for property and private rights allotted to Public Debt ..	30,877
Total	113,492

Balance credit, £ T. 269,819.

Of this balance, the Russian indemnity absorbs £ T. 80,000.

The scheme of reforms, if carried out, will cost an additional £ T. 16,572 per annum.

The salaries of the officials are two months in arrear.

A telegram is dispatched every evening to the Palace stating the amount of taxes collected that day, and all available surplus is sent to the Palace.

The revenue of the province has, so far, not suffered from the disorders, but, on the contrary, has gained. Thus, the debt of arrears of taxes due to Government stood last year at £ T. 875,000, It is now £ T. 560,000. This is due to the loot, acquired by the Mussulmans, which enabled them to pay their taxes and arrears of taxes more easily. It is also due to the great pressure, at present exercised by the Government, in collecting taxes. As an instance of this pressure, I mention that an Armenian complained to me that he had been fined 2 medjidiehs for not having reported the death of his father and brother, both of whom had been killed in the massacre at Sivas.

Public Debt.

For purposes of the Public Debt the district of Sivas comprises part of the Provinces of Kharput and Angora.

	£ T.
From this district the revenue derived by the Public Debt Department for year ending the 29th February, 1896, was	48,283
The expenses of the Department for same period were	6,592

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 280.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1008.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 987 of the 27th ultimo I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sivas reporting on the present state of the reforms in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Vice-Consul Bulman to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 36.) *Sivas, November 25, 1896.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to furnish the following details as to the reforms carried out in this vilayet:—

Article 1.—A Muavin to the Vali has been appointed.

Articles 2, 3, 4.—Muavins have been appointed for the Sandjaks of Tokat and Kara-Hissar. These two have not left Constantinople.

Muavins have also been appointed to the Cazas of Gurun and Mersifoun.

It is stated an Armenian has been appointed Kaïmakam of Kotch-Hissar. This has not been officially confirmed.

Article 5.—The Deftredar of the Caza of Durigh has recently been suspended. An Armenian has been appointed in his place.

Article 6.—The elections for the Councils of Administration for some of the cazas were carried out last spring in accordance with the Regulations.

Articles 7–13.—The nahiés have been formed. The elections are nearly complete.

Article 19.—Judicial Inspectors have been appointed.

Articles 20, 21.—The formation of police is complete. Thirty-two Mussulman and six Christian Commissaires have been appointed. Of the privates, fifty-two are Mussulman, seventeen Christian.

Articles 22, 23.—For the Sandjak of Sivas fifty-seven Christians are appointed in the dismounted gendarmerie, and eleven in the mounted gendarmerie. The other sandjaks are enrolling them.

Article 25.—Five guardians have been appointed for the prison; one of them is an Armenian. The state of the prison is unsatisfactory, and I have made representations to the Vali, in consequence of which one official has been dismissed, and a slight improvement has taken place.

Article 26.—The Council of Inspection has been appointed. The President is a Turk, and of the two members one is an Armenian.

Article 27.—The Kurds were not accompanied by Imperial troops. I mentioned this to Shakir Pasha. He replied it was impossible to supply troops for all the Kurds. No disorders occurred.

Article 28.—Privates of Hamidieh cavalry are subject to the ordinary Tribunals. Several have been imprisoned in the ordinary way. They do not carry Government arms, but have arms of their own.

Article 29.—A Local Commission has been formed. The President and one member are Mussulmans, the other two members are Christians.

Article 30.—Twenty-three Tahsildars have been appointed, others will shortly be appointed.

Article 31.—The tithes are sold by villages. The Regulations for forced labour are carried out.

I can find no confirmation of the statement that the sums set apart for Christian schools have been raised; but the Armenians are admitted into one of the Turkish schools on the same footing as Turkish children

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. BULMAN.

No. 281.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1009.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 443 of the 5th June reporting the release of thirty-one Armenians of Aintab from the prison at Aleppo, I have the honour to state that the Acting British Consul at Aleppo informed me by telegram, dated the 21st November, that orders had been received from Constantinople that the Armenian prisoners from Aintab who had been released by the Court of Appeal at Aleppo in May last should be imprisoned and tried again on the ground that the proceedings which

resulted in their discharge were irregular. Mr. Catoni stated it as his opinion, that the object of this measure was to force the Court to condemn the prisoners.

On receipt of this telegram I instructed Mr. Block to make immediate representations to the Porte, and also communicated the facts of the case to my colleagues, who have supported my representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 282.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 1012.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the formation of two Committees there: one for the supervision of the execution of the reforms, and another for the raising of subscriptions in aid of the military funds of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 282.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 116.)
Sir, *Angora, November 27, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that two Committees have quite recently been formed in Angora: one for the supervision of the execution of the contemplated reforms, and the other for the raising of a subscription in aid of the military funds of the Empire.

The Committee first mentioned is composed of his Excellency the Vali (as President), the Chief Commanding Officer of the Gendarmerie, the Director of the Public Debt Department, the Procureur-Général, the Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Archives ("Evrak Mudiri"), the Director of Public Instruction, and the Director of the Census Department ("Nufouss Mudiri").

The Military Aid Fund Committee is composed of two members of the Administrative Council ("Idaré Mejlissi"), the Superintendent of Excisemen of the Tobacco Régie the Director of the Local Agricultural Bank, and two of the chief Turkish Notables.

I need hardly say that all these persons are Turks.

I shall not fail to report to your Excellency the results, if any, of the labours of these Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—As regards the Military Aid Fund, I am informed on good authority that the hope is entertained in high official circles that a sum amounting to £ T. 26,000 will be raised in the Angora district (sandjak) alone, while it is calculated that the whole province ought to produce £ T. 80,000. I cannot but think that these estimates are much too sanguine.

W. S. R.

No. 283.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 6, 1896.*

I HEAR that the French Government are now trying to induce the Russian Government to accept a Financial Commission somewhat similar to the proposal in the 18th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and that the fear of hurting French susceptibilities by refusing this fresh proposal is working strongly in its favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 284.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance les renseignements suivants complémentaires relativement aux réformes exécutées en Anatolie.

Treize commissaires et agents de police non-Musulmans, recrutés proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane de la Province de Diarbékir, sont entrés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions depuis le 11 Juillet dernier (v. s.). Des 189 gendarmes qui doivent, d'après l'Article 22, être recrutés parmi la population non-Musulmane du vilayet, les 116 ont été déjà engagés et versés dans les bataillons de Mardine, de Diarbékir, et de Maden. Le recrutement continuant, le nombre requis sera complété dans deux jours. Tous les Receveurs ont été déjà nommés. Parmi eux ont été engagés quinze non-Musulmans, suivant la proportion des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane. Les districts de Silvan, Lidgé, Béchiki, Sévérek, Mardin, Nassibin, Djézré, Avnié, Maden, Balon, et Tchermik, ainsi que celui dépendant du chef-lieu du vilayet, ont été divisés en trente-six communes. Les Moudirs et les membres des Conseils des Anciens de quelques-uns des nahiés ont été déjà élus, et les formalités nécessaires à ce sujet sont sur le point d'être accomplies. Des ordres sont données à qui de droit pour hâter les élections dans les autres communes. On procède avec activité au choix des gardes champêtres. Le nombre de non-Mussulmans nommés jusqu'ici aux postes administratifs à déjà atteint les deux tiers du chiffre requis par l'Article 5 du plan. On procédera à la nomination du reste au fur et à mesure des vacances.

Le nombre des gendarmes non-Musulmans qui doivent être recrutés proportionnellement au chiffre des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane du Vilayet de Bitlis est de 278. Cinquante-deux d'entre eux ont été déjà engagés, et les mesures nécessaires ont été prises pour le recrutement des autres. Sur les quatre-vingt-deux hommes formant l'effectif de la police du vilayet, les vingt et un devant être pris parmi les non-Musulmans, ceux-ci ont été déjà tous engagés.

Des quatre-vingt-deux Receveurs de finances du vilayet les vingt et un doivent également être Chrétiens. Les dix-neuf en ont été déjà nommés, et les deux autres le seront sous peu.

L'organisation des nahiés est terminée, les districts du vilayet ont été divisés en trente et un communes. Les élections ont eu lieu dans dix nahiés; un Moudir et sept adjoints non-Musulmans, élus conformément à l'Article 8 du plan, sont déjà entrés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Les élections continuent dans les autres communes. Cinquante-six gardes champêtres Chrétiens ont été aussi nommés.

On procède avec activité à l'élection des Conseils des Anciens, et les dispositions nécessaires ont été prises pour la nomination de Chrétiens aux postes administratifs proportionnellement au chiffre des populations.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 8 Décembre, 1896.

No. 285.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 483.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 9, 1896, 10·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 361, I have the honour to state that according to a telegram from the Consul at Aleppo, the priest Dev Gevond Kahaam has not yet been released.

No. 286.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 10, 1896.*

I AM informed by Count Goluchowski that Count Deym has received instructions to explain why no formal reply has yet been sent to your Lordship's proposals contained in Circular despatch of 20th October, and to state to your Lordship that he agrees with them in principle.

Count Goluchowski says that, as regards the Straits question, the information he has received from St. Petersburgh leads him to believe that there is no intention of raising the subject on the part of the Russian Government.

No. 287.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 506 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 10, 1896.*

I INFORMED M. de Courcel yesterday that I had received answers from St. Petersburgh and Vienna to my Circular of the 20th October, and that on more than one occasion M. Hanotaux had promised also to send me an answer. I was waiting for it, as I was anxious to send some instructions to Sir P. Currie before M. de Nélidoff returned to Constantinople, when the consultations of the Ambassadors would probably begin. Some words M. Hanotaux had dropped in conversation with your Excellency seemed to indicate that under no circumstances would he consent to join in the application of material pressure at Constantinople. I trusted, however, that this was not his definitive judgment.

The French Ambassador, in reply, told me that it was certainly the full intention of the French Minister to send me a reply to the despatch to which I had referred. He thought that your Excellency must have misapprehended the precise signification of M. Hanotaux' reference to this matter. He would doubtless adhere to the view which he had more than once expressed with respect to these Turkish negotiations. If the other Powers were agreed upon any point of policy, his Excellency said that he would confidently predict that France would not make an exception to their unanimity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 288.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer les renseignements suivants relatifs aux réformes appliquées en Anatolie.

Vilayet de Mamouret-ul-Aziz: Un Mouavin non-Musulman avait été déjà nommé auprès du Vali conformément à l'Article 1 du plan de réformes. Des Mouavins non-Musulmans viennent également d'être nommés auprès des Caimacans

d'Arabkir et de Tcharsandjak conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 2 du dit plan. Des fonctionnaires Chrétiens sont nommés aux postes administratifs au fur et à mesure des vacances et proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane. Les Conseils Administratifs fonctionnent conformément à l'Article 6.

L'organisation des nahiés se fait et sera terminée dans quelques jours. Des Inspecteurs judiciaires avaient été déjà nommés.

Le nombre des agents de police qui doivent être engagés étant de soixante-deux, les dispositions nécessaires ont été prises pour leur engagement conformément à l'Article 20. Les agents de police des communes seront recrutés aussitôt que l'organisation de celles-ci sera terminée. L'organisation de la gendarmerie est déjà terminée et l'on procède à l'engagement des gendarmes non-Musulmans proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations. Des Conseils d'Enquête Préliminaire ont déjà commencé à fonctionner. Des Commissions chargées de la revision des titres de propriétés ont été instituées et commenceront à fonctionner aussitôt que les instructions relatives à leurs attributions auront été sanctionnées. Des Receveurs de finances seront nommés conformément à l'Article 31, au nombre de quatre-vingt-huit. Toutes les autres dispositions du plan ont été également appliquées.

Le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Bitlis télégraphie à la Sublime Porte, de son côté, qu'un Receveur et sept gendarmes non-Musulmans ont été encore nommés. Les élections ont également eu lieu dans trois autres nahiés. Des Adjoints non-Musulmans y ont été nommés conformément à l'Article 8. Cinquante gardes champêtres Chrétiens ont été nommés dans les districts d'Ervé et de Gazran. Tous les habitants de la commune de Chatek étant Musulmans, le Moudir et l'Adjoint y ont été choisis parmi les Musulmans.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 10 Décembre, 1896.

No. 289.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1015.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 9, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 956 of the 17th instant I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Angora, giving further details of the Armenian massacre at Everek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 289.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Angora, November 30, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 113 of the 13th instant, giving further details concerning the massacre of Armenians at Everek, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that some twenty Turks have been arrested on the charge of being the ringleaders in this affair, and taken to Cæsarea. Among them are, it would appear, two women, who are accused of having incited their co-religionists, both by word and gesture, to attack the Armenians. It is now stated, on what I believe to be good authority, that the Kaïmakam of Everek, Mahmoud Mahir Effendi, did his best to put down the movement, but that he was opposed by the Major in command of the Reserves and the Cadi, both of whom, out of spite against the Kaïmakam with whom they were on bad terms, incited the Moslem mob to perpetrate excesses, which, had a firm front been shown by all the authorities in a body, would have been impossible.

The Vali has been seriously ill for nearly a fortnight, and so I have not been able

to question him as to the truth or otherwise of this report, but I shall avail myself of the first opportunity to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 290.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1016.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting the elopement of a Turk with an Armenian girl.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 69.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 26, 1896.

AN Armenian girl of Djoshara, Takouhi by name, daughter of a certain Nahabed Ovaghian, was reported as carried off on the 17th instant by some Turks inhabiting the adjacent village of Samaroukza.

The Vali had the young woman found and brought to Trebizond. She declared herself openly to have embraced Islamism and to have married Elias, son of Tchougour Abdi. It was in vain that her father and, in the absence of the Bishop, the Armenian Vicar tried to dissuade her from abandoning her religion and deserting her home.

This is evidently therefore a case of elopement, actuated by blind infatuation or loose morality, which would scarcely be worth reporting were it not that it has brought to light a very curious fact. An impression appears to exist in the minds of some Turks that those who take unto themselves Armenian wives would be exempt from military service. So widespread is the idea that the Vali has issued a Circular to his subordinates in the district requesting them to point out its absurdity, with a warning that any such attempt at invasion would be punishable by compulsory enlistment, irrespective of the ballot, at the next conscription.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 291.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1017.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting the plundering of an Armenian house by Turks and the proceedings of the authorities to punish the offenders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 291.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 25, 1896.

ON the night of the 18th instant robbery with battery was committed by ten disguised Turks on the inmates of three Armenian houses at Samaroukza, a village 15 miles from Trebizond.

As the Headmen and rural guards of the locality were unable to discover the burglars, the Vali has this day dispatched to the spot the Deputy Commander of the Gendarmerie and a small body of men, as well as the Mudirs of Youmrah and Surmeneh, with stringent and unequivocal orders to either bring down the culprits before the end of the month (old style) or make the Moslem inhabitants of the neighbourhood pay the plundered Armenians the value of their stolen effects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 292.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1018. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, reporting receipt by Vali of the Vilayet of instructions as to reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Acting Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 119. Confidential.)
Sir, *Smyrna, December* 1, 1896.

HAVING seen a report in the papers that the Sultan had decided to extend, to the whole Empire, the reforms contained in the scheme drawn up last year for the Armenian vilayets, I took advantage of an interview I had last Thursday with Kiamil Pasha, Governor-General of this vilayet, to ask him whether the report was correct.

His Highness told me that he had received circular instructions to that effect, and that the measures to be introduced into this vilayet were the same as those adopted for the six vilayets, with certain modifications.

He informed me that a Commission was sitting *ad hoc*, under his Presidency, and that a good deal of correspondence on the subject was being exchanged between this Commission, the Sublime Porte, and the local authorities in this district, but that, up to the present, nothing practical had resulted, owing to the usual stumbling-block in this matter of reforms, viz., the want of funds.

The two points which have been discussed the most the reinforcement of the gendarmerie and police forces, and the appointment of Mouavins, who, it seems, are all to be nominated by the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 293.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1019. Confidential.) *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a Petition from prisoners.

I have caused a Memorandum on the subject to be addressed to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 293.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 121. Confidential.) *Erzeroum, November* 27, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a Petition from certain Armenian prisoners now detained at Erzeroum, complaining of the treatment they have undergone at the hands of the police. It is not my habit to receive Petitions from Ottoman subjects under any circumstances, but this document, like the inclosure to my preceding despatch, having been left at the Consulate anonymously, I have thought it right to forward it to your Excellency with my observations, rather than suppress it, or return it to its authors, with the risk of further aggravating their situation.

The account given therein of the conduct of the police only bears out the descriptions which have reached me from other sources of their behaviour towards Armenian political prisoners, and I do not believe it to be greatly exaggerated. I had, indeed, drawn your Excellency's attention to this question quite lately, in the inclosure to my despatch of the 19th instant (Article 25). It is clear that the Vali himself, with the best will in the world, is not able to control all the actions of officials who are are not of his appointing, schooled in the recent traditions of the Turkish police, and utterly indifferent to the means whereby they may obtain the convictions which they think will redound to their credit.

In the present instance I had spoken to Raouf Pasha more than a month ago about the reports which reached me of the ill-treatment of these prisoners by the police. His Excellency, whose chief fault in my eyes, is his occasional over-readiness to believe the best of his subordinates, without sufficient personal inquiry, assured me then that these reports were grossly exaggerated, and that although a police officer might sometimes so far lose his temper as to box the ears of a recalcitrant prisoner, no such systematic torture or ill-usage, as I described, could exist in the Erzeroum prisons or police offices. I am glad to be able to add, however, that he then issued fresh and severe orders to the police and prison authorities, forbidding any such practices, and that there has been a marked improvement in the condition of prisoners since that moment.

This improvement, however, under the present régime, can only be regarded as temporary. In default of direct encouragement and support from the Central Government, each attempt of the Vali to right abuses of this sort will be misrepresented in certain circles as fresh evidence of his partiality for the Christians, and can only impair his power for good in other directions. But, under the scheme of reforms, the Vali is supposed to be relieved from the difficult task of protecting prisoners from ill-treatment at the hands of prison and police officials by the action of the Judicial Inspectors. Unfortunately, though we have not seen much of these officers at Erzeroum so far, it is not too soon to say that they appear to exercise their functions in the most superficial and half-hearted manner. The judicial authorities again strenuously resist any interference of the Vali in what they are pleased to call the course of justice, and there is nothing to show that that Department has received any serious hint from head-quarters to modify its activity in the multiplication of frivolous and vexatious charges of sedition, too often manifestly trumped up by the "agents provocateurs" of the police.

One is driven to the inevitable conclusion that in this most important particular of police and prison administration, the provisions of the reform scheme have so far

failed, and are likely to fail of their purpose, even under the favourable conditions afforded by the presence of an upright and conscientious Governor-General; and the inherent defects of uncontrolled Turkish officialism, left without guidance, if not wilfully misdirected by the influences of Constantinople, must bear the blame of their failure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 293.

Petition of Armenian Political Prisoners at Erzeroum.

A son Excellence M. le Consul-Général du Gouvernement Anglais à Erzeroum.

M. le Consul-Général,

CONFORMÉMENT à une coutume consacrée de notre ville, nous Soussignés nous étions rendus, il y a environ deux mois, au Couvent de Saint-Grégoire Illuminateur, à une heure de distance de la ville, en vue d'y faire un pèlerinage. Chacun de nous était accompagné de quelques-unes de ses connaissances. Quelques instituteurs y étaient aussi invités de la part de M. Ardachès Khatchiguian, frère de M. Archag Khatchiguian, Commissaire en troisième. A notre retour en ville nous avons été arrêtés par la police, et sans avoir subi aucun interrogatoire, jetés dans des horribles cachots, où nous avons passé des jours entiers, presque nus, et accablés de faim. Comme nous avions la pleine conviction de notre innocence, nous étions tous frappés d'étonnement, et nous ne savions comment expliquer la démarche de la police. Cependant nous n'avons pas tardé à en pénétrer la cause lorsqu'on a commencé nos interrogatoires. La police, ayant en vue de déployer un peu de zèle et d'activité, a voulu attribuer un but révolutionnaire à notre pèlerinage, et pour y réussir s'est engagée dans les machinations suivantes. On nous emmenait, de nuit, dans un endroit, sous prétexte de nous interroger. Là, sous des coups horribles de bâtons, la police nous faisait écrire des chants et des discours dictés par elle-même, dangereux au point de vue politique, et nous faisait signer des écrits qu'elle rédigeait d'avance; et tout cela pour faire croire que nous ayons déclamé ou chanté ces pièces au susdit couvent.

Pour donner une petite idée aux vexations et aux battements que nous avons supportés, nous nous empressons d'en alléguer quelques exemples.

Ce qu'on appelle cachot c'est un endroit ténébreux et malsain qui ne peut contenir qu'un homme. Quelque robuste qu'on soit, on dépérit en peu de jours par l'influence de l'humidité et de la fétidité; on n'y prend pour nourriture journalière qu'un morceau de pain; on n'en sort qu'une fois par jour pour les nécessités naturelles; on n'y bouge que très difficilement; on n'y respire que la mauvaise odeur qui se dégage des égouts passant près du cachot. Voilà l'endroit où on a enfermé d'abord Mihran Sahondjian, presque nu, et couché par terre. Au bout de douze jours il a été appelé à la Chambre de Police; là on l'a tellement battu que quelques bâtons ont été cassés sur son corps, livide de coups. On l'a transporté demi-mort à l'hôpital des prisons, où il a été traité par le médecin de la Municipalité.

Harontioun Shiragossian, sujet Russe, après avoir passé quelques jours dans un cachot, a subi les mêmes tourments barbares, de manière à perdre connaissance deux ou trois fois sous la violence des coups. Mais cela ne le sauve point de ses bourreaux. Revenu à lui-même par l'eau, il a été exposé de nouveau aux mêmes vexations; enfin, tout couvert de blessures, il a été transféré au même hôpital, et soigné par le même médecin.

Kevork Aslanian, battu à plusieurs reprises, et par des centaines de coups de verges.

Partogh Odabachian, instituteur, a été livré à la même flagellation, de manière qu'il s'évanouit; on le jette, demi-mort, dans le cachot le plus étroit.

Roupine Nersessian, instituteur, qui est un jeune homme maladif, a été si cruellement flagellé qu'il garde le lit jusqu'aujourd'hui.

Hamazash et Yervant Hovassapian ont reçu tant de coups sur leur tête qu'ils ont presque perdu le sens de l'ouïe.

Ohannès Vianetzian, marchand, est aujourd'hui en proie à une maladie incurable par suite de coups de bâton.

Toutes ces scènes effrayantes avaient lieu pendant la nuit, comme nous venons de

dire, car pendant la journée les passants pouvaient être des témoins oculaires de ces actions inhumaines. S'il arrivait qu'on emmenait pendant la journée un prisonnier à la Chambre de la Police, et qu'on ne parvenait pas à lui arracher quelque aveu, on le menaçait de le soumettre pendant la nuit aux épreuves d'inquisition.

Tous les prisonniers ont, sans exception, subi les susdits maltraitements; il y en eut qui sont restés dans des cachots trente-cinq à quarante jours de suite. Même des enfants âgés de 12 à 13 ans n'en ont pas été épargnés.

Nous avons là-haut mis en évidence le but de la police qu'elle voulait atteindre moyennant ces mesures sauvages. En voici une preuve: Pendant qu'on interrogeait Partogh Odabachian, le Commissaire a ouvertement avoué qu'il avait à dessein donné de l'argent à Ardachès Khatchiguian (employé secret de la police) pour qu'il invitât au couvent les instituteurs susmentionnés afin de les exposer à cet état malheureux.

Il est à noter que lorsqu'on interrogeait les prisonniers le Commissaire et les gendarmes étaient tous ivres, de manière qu'il était difficile de différer la salle de police d'un cabaret.

Voici le procédé qu'on suivait pendant la flagellation: Lorsque le prisonnier s'opposait à toutes sortes de propositions illégales, le Commissaire appelait, au son d'une clochette, un certain gendarme appelé "Azrail," qui veut dire "Ange de la Mort;" celui-ci, accompagné de trois autres gendarmes, s'introduisait dans la chambre, et à l'aide de ces derniers, renversait par terre le pauvre prisonnier; l'un se plaçait sur la tête, l'autre sur les pieds, et le troisième donnait tant de coups de bâton que le souffrant se voyait forcé d'avouer ce qu'il n'avait jamais osé.

Il est aussi à remarquer la démarche indécente du chef Commissaire. Il débitait des paroles et d'horribles blasphèmes contre la religion Chrétienne, l'honneur individuel et national, pendant que les gendarmes jouaient le rôle d'inquisiteurs. Tout cela avait lieu en présence et par la coopération de Dikran Kévorkian, Commissaire en second, et d'Archag Khatchiguian, qui écoutaient ces blasphèmes avec un tel sang-froid qu'on eût dit qu'ils appartinssent à une autre nation et autre croyance.

Nous avons voulu protester au Vali contre ces faits illégitimes de la police; cependant les employés de la prison, instigués par la première, se sont opposés à notre dessein, afin que toutes les cicatrices de nos blessures disparaissent par le cours du temps. Au bout de quinze jours, nous avons à peine réussi à présenter au Vali une protestation. La police a nié avec impertinence toutes les cruautés qu'elle avait commises contre nous. Alors le Vali a ordonné de nous soumettre à un examen médical. Quoique la lividité de notre peau montrât avec évidence que nous étions horriblement battus, pourtant, nous n'avons pu tirer aucun profit de notre démarche légitime. Quelques jours après, nous nous sommes adressés au Procureur de la ville et aux Inspecteurs de la justice, dernièrement arrivés; malheureusement ils n'ont pas voulu prêter oreille à notre protestation.

En plein espoir que vous aurez, Excellence, la bonté de prendre en considération ce que nous avançons, nous sommes avec le respect le plus profond, vos très humbles serviteurs.

(Signatures of 30 Armenian prisoners).

Erzeroum, le 9 (21) *Novembre*, 1896.

No. 294.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1020.) *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Van, reporting progress of reforms in his vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Major Williams to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Van, November* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows with reference to your Excellency's despatch, dated the 31st October:—

Articles 1 to 11.—Have been carried out.

Articles 12, 16.—Preparations are being made to form some of these nahiés, and the Vali assures me that no effort will be spared on his part to carry out this reform. But he does not conceal his opinion that the people are not sufficiently advanced for such a system of local government, and I confess that, as far as this vilayet is concerned, I agree with him. As only villages situated at a distance of more than three hours from a centre are to be formed into nahiés, they will necessarily be composed of the most ignorant and fanatical classes, who are, and must be for many years, quite incapable of governing themselves. I am very much afraid that the premature formation of these nahiés will have the effect of putting the Christians still more in the hands of the Kurds.

Articles 17, 18.—These instructions have been prepared, and much good will be done by these powers, small though they be, being given to the villagers.

Article 19.—The Judicial Inspectors have visited Van. They did good; but it is to be hoped that when confidence is restored they will be able to take a stronger line.

Articles 20, 21.—By Shakir Pasha's scheme the police (inspectors) in this vilayet are to be increased from thirty-two to sixty-three. The Vali has requested authority to include this extra number in the Budget. In view, however, of the financial situation, I think it would be wiser to defer the enrolment of the greater number of these new men.

Articles 22, 23.—I have frequently had to refer to the state of the gendarmerie. It is supposed to consist of 1,100 rank and file, at a cost of £T. 2 per man per month. Many of these have left; of those who remain nominally few can be obtained for serious work. In view of the paucity of money, the Vali would like to get together 400 regularly paid, who would live in barracks and be available at any moment. Of these, 250 would be in Van, and 150 at Alpak, the centre of the Sandjak of Hekkiari. This force would cost £T. 800 per month; but even this sum is beyond the resources of the vilayet. If the Sublime Porte could be induced to put aside a sum of money for this service, and remit it monthly to Van, a great step in advance would have been gained.

Article 24.—Calls for no remark.

Article 25.—The prison requires rebuilding at a cost of £T. 400. The hospital arrangements were very bad, but I have lately been able to obtain an improvement in this respect, as well as in the arrangements for the custody of female prisoners. The Vali has been very good about letting sick prisoners out on bail.

Article 26.—This Council has done some good, but its scope and duties should be categorically detailed by the Commission at Constantinople.

Article 27.—This is one of the most important questions in the vilayet. Orders should be sent, which admit of no dispute, for at least two squadrons of cavalry and two battalions of infantry to be detailed for duty next spring.

Article 28.—The idea that only the privates in the Hamidieh regiments are affected by this Article appears to be a new one, and entirely does away with its utility. As I have previously pointed out to your Excellency, the officers, nominally under the Mushir at Erzinghian, are able to laugh at the local authorities, civil and military. At the very least they should be under the local Commander, and liable to be tried by court-martial on the demand of the Civil Governor for offences against the Civil Law.

Article 29.—This Commission was appointed some months ago. It has done nothing, and I fail to see that it has any practical utility.

Article 30.—I am informed that the collectors have been appointed.

Article 31.—The tithes have been adjudicated by villages. Payment is accepted here in lieu of labour on public works.

As I have informed your Excellency by telegraph, I was invited by the Vali last week, together with my French colleague, to discuss the execution of the reforms in the vilayet. He said he had received orders from the Porte to talk the matter over with us, and to request us to inform our Embassies by telegram, if we were satisfied, that under the circumstances he was doing his best.

Of this there can be no doubt, but something more is wanted. The restoration of order and security, on which everything depends, is in the hands of the Sublime Porte. Unless they give the Vali the means and authority to carry out the measures necessary to attain these ends, affairs must go from bad to worse. No government can be carried on in a country like this, when even the smallest details have to be referred to Constantinople. Then, again, there is the question of the military authorities. They have no orders to assist the civil powers to maintain order. The General Officer Commanding cannot move a man for this purpose without orders from the Commander of the Army Corps. This is wrong at any time, but under the present circumstances almost criminal. Surely His Imperial Majesty can be induced to give some orders which will meet the case, more especially as the Vali and the General are men who could work together. No Armenian here takes the least interest in the reforms. The only question for them is whether the present state of affairs is to continue. To put a stop to the present unbearable situation in which they now live some reasonable measures must be taken to show the Kurds that they are not free to rob, plunder, and murder at will. It is impossible to punish every one; one or two prominent men arrested and exiled is all that is required. I have already telegraphed to your Excellency about three Kurdish Chiefs. There is another, without doubt, the worst in the vilayet—Darbar Khan, of the Shemsiki. I believe that if he were arrested and exiled there would be no further trouble in the vilayet.

I beg your Excellency to use all your influence to get this done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. WILLIAMS.

No. 295.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1021.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem on the subject of reforms in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Consul Dickson to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Jerusalem, November* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on my paying the usual ceremonial visit to the Mutessarif of Jerusalem, shortly after my return from leave of absence on the 13th instant, his Excellency informed me that he had just received the new plan of reforms, sanctioned by His Majesty the Sultan, for application to all the Provinces of Turkey, and that he was going to put them into execution forthwith in this Mutessarifilik. His Excellency did not communicate to me the text of these reforms, but from what I have been able to learn of their contents, they appear to be an abridgment, in some respects, of those forwarded to me by your Excellency on the 24th October, last year, and, in others, to differ materially from them. His Excellency has already appointed a Commission composed of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans to supervise the application of these reforms, and I understand that my French colleague has received instructions from the French Ambassador at Constantinople, to see that they are properly put into execution.

I would venture to remark that from my knowledge of his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, both here and at Jerusalem, and in former years in Syria, I am convinced that he is sincerely desirous of ameliorating the condition of the country over which he governs, and promoting the welfare of its inhabitants by the introduction of proper reforms. He is universally acknowledged by all sects to be scrupulously honest; is always anxious to maintain tranquillity and good order in his district, and to make no distinction between Christians and Mussulmans; and although of a somewhat hasty temper, is of a conciliatory disposition, and easily pacified. Having been related

by marriage to Reschid Pasha, who was assassinated shortly after the deposition of the Sultan, Abdul-Aziz, and a friend of the late Midhat Pasha, he is not averse to progress; but his connection with the Statesman above referred to has deprived him of any influence which he otherwise might have possessed in the capital. Not having friends in the Palace, his aim is to prevent as much as possible complaints being made against him, and, consequently, his weak point is that in ordinary matters relating to his administration, he is frequently guided in his decisions by the more wealthy and influential Mussulmans in Jerusalem. As an instance of his popularity, and the good-will shown towards him by the people in general, I may mention that a report having recently reached Jerusalem that he had been relieved from his functions, and replaced by a certain Husin Bey, from the Ministry of the Interior, numerous telegrams were at once dispatched to Constantinople, begging the Porte to permit him to remain at his post, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchates being the first to telegraph in this sense. The French and Russian Consuls-General also sent telegrams to the Ambassadors of their respective nations asking their intervention to prevent the removal of his Excellency, and I am informed that it has been through the representations of M. de Nélidow that the appointment of Ibrahim Pasha's successor has been cancelled.

I have the honour to add that, on my recent arrival at Jaffa from leave of absence, His Excellency directed the Captain of the Porte to go on board the steam-boat and welcome me back, and instructed the Kaïmakam of Jaffa to call upon me immediately on my landing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 296.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1022.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, transmitting a report on Mosul news from the Consular Agent at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 296.

Consul-General Mockler to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 545.)
Sir, *Bagdad, November* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to very respectfully submit copy (in translation) of a despatch, No. 47, dated the 3rd November, 1896, from Mr. Rassam, Consular Agent at Mosul, containing items of news which may prove interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 296.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

(No. 47.)
(Translation.)
Sir, *Mosul, November* 3, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that his Excellency Abdullah Pasha, the Vali, banished to Amadieh on the 27th ultimo Husain Agha, son of Ali Agha, one of the Notables of Mosul, and imprisoned Hajee Mahommed Chelebi Saboonchi, one of the respectable Mahommedan merchants, with the intention of banishing him to Kerkook with four or five others whose names I was unable to learn, for his Excellency was told that these persons were holding meetings and inciting people to prepare Mazbatas against him; but next day, which was Wednesday, a telegram reached him from Constantinople, ordering his dismissal. He was therefore obliged to recall

Hussain Agha back from the place of his banishment, and released Haji Mahommed Chelebi from prison.

The Inspectors ("Mufatishes") who had arrived here from Anatolia, namely, the Mir Alai and his companions, left Mosul for Diarbekir on Thursday. Their principal duty is to inspect the Hamidieh troops.

His Excellency Abdullah Pasha, on receiving the telegraphic order for his dismissal, and authorization to appoint one in his place, wired to Rauf Pasha, "Mir Liwa" (Major-General) of the Military Staff at Kerkook, and appointed him in his place. Rafik Pasha thereupon left Kerkook, and arrived here on Friday last in the morning, and on the following day Ferik Abdullah Pasha left for Constantinople, viâ Diarbekir.

After his departure I paid a visit to Rafik Pasha, and from the most civil and graceful manner he received me he seems to be a good man, possessing praiseworthy moral qualities, and perhaps will hereafter also prove to be able and competent. Yesterday (Sunday) he returned my visit, and expressed his wishes that I might often go to him. In the evening of the day the Farik started, Haji Mahommed Chelebi and some other gentlemen gave an entertainment to Rafik Pasha, as he is one of his best friends.

I heard that His Excellency Abdullah Pasha, our late Vali, had, a day before his departure, received a telegram from the Porte inquiring of him if there is any objection to the carrying out of reforms in the Vilayet of Mosul, as decided to be introduced into the six vilayets in Anatolia, and his Excellency to have answered that there was not the least objection. But this news admits doubt, for I did not hear it from one who is in Government service.

No. 297.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1023.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 9, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis reporting on the progress of reforms in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 61.)
Sir,

Bitlis, November 24, 1896.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 31st ultimo, received by me on the 10th instant, and to my telegrams of the 17th and 19th instant, I have the honour to report that, from statements made to me by his Excellency the Vali and his Christian Mouavin, and from what I have learnt from other sources, the following appear to have been the new steps taken in the execution of reforms:—

Two Christian Mouavins of Kaimakams, namely of those of Shervan (Sairt Sandjak) and Koulp (Guenj Sandjak), have been appointed.

It may be noted that in Shervan a large number of forcibly-converted villages are said to be still nominally Mussulman, but the Vali tells me they will not be recognized as Mussulman.

Councils have been elected in three nahiés in the immediate neighbourhood of Bitlis town, and will, it is supposed, now proceed to the election of their Mudirs and Assistant Mudirs. But, according to the Vali, the arrangements for nahiés in the vilayet are not yet complete.

In Bitlis town there are three Armenian policemen, all enrolled since last spring, out of a total force of ten or eleven. No Christian gendarmes have yet been enrolled for the Sandjak of Bitlis, and the Vali complains that Christians do not offer themselves for the gendarmerie. In Mush four Christian gendarmes have been enrolled.

Taxes are still being collected by gendarmes (zaptiehs) in the villages. For the town of Bitlis a new official called Bash Tahsildar has been appointed, but it is not yet clear what his work is to be.

Nothing new appears to have been done with regard to the inspection of title-

deeds, and I am informed that the Christian population is indifferent to this matter, and, until security for the property they now hold has for a considerable time been established, is likely to remain so.

As I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my telegrams of the 21st instant and of to-day's date, there appear to be fourteen Armenians awaiting trial in Bitlis prison—seven for the murder of the spy Hatchik (see my despatch No. 57 of the 26th ultimo), five villagers arrested three weeks ago for attempting, last spring, to murder a supposed spy, Murad, a Catholic Armenian, who was made a policeman a month ago, and two of whom I heard for the first time yesterday as having been in prison for the last twelve months on the charge of murdering two zaptiehs.

Statements which the Vali made to me on the 21st instant left me under an incorrect impression as to the number of prisoners in prison here now, but I will take an opportunity of speaking to his Excellency again on the subject. He said that all untried prisoners would be very soon brought to trial.

The whole vilayet appears to have been quiet for the last fortnight, only small cases of cattle-lifting are still occurring.

About a fortnight ago, in the Boulanik Caza, Mush Sandjak, a murderous feud, which had lasted a month, and in which seven Kurds had been killed, was still going on between the Hassananlis and the Haidernanlis. Sheikh Amin, referred to by Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson as a dangerous fanatic, was sent from Bitlis to reconcile the parties, but he has not yet returned, and it is not certain what he has done. However, Rizakh Aga, a Hassananli Chief, was seized by gendarmes a fortnight ago, and conveyed to Mush, where he now is, and Boulanik is at present quiet. During the hostilities two or three Christian villages were partially plundered.

The Caza of Akhlat (see my despatch No. 60 of the 10th instant) is also now quiet, but seven Christian villages in that Caza were very extensively plundered by Haidernanli Hamidiehs, and I now hear a complaint from a village in the same caza named Tahout, which lost 1,000 sheep; that thirty gendarmes sent to protect them are now quartered on the villagers, while ten gendarmes quartered on the same village are collecting taxes from it.

Shakir Pasha (see my despatch No. 60, above referred to) was robbed by Modeki Kurds of some forage which was being carried for his horses in the caravan which accompanied him. The Alai Bey (Chief of the Gendarmerie) of Bitlis was sent with about 100 men into the Modeki Mountains, which begin within 5 miles of Bitlis town, to pursue the robbers, and to collect taxes. Large droves of sheep and cattle have been already sent down from Christian, and, perhaps, from Kurdish villages of Modeki, to be sold in Bitlis for taxes, but I have not heard that any robber has been caught.

The Christians here are favourably impressed by the fact that the Vali refuses to be reconciled with Hajji Nejmeddin and Yahsin Effendis, the two fanatics whom he dismissed from his Council about two months ago. I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency about these two persons on the 14th instant. They are now kept under surveillance in this town, and the fear that they might cause a disturbance seems to be passing away.

This Hajji Nejmeddin, who is the owner of several villages, owes the Government large sums of money for taxes, and, until he fell into disgrace with the Vali, used to buy the tithes of his own villages at rates which were very advantageous to himself. I am informed that, excepting those Kurdish villages which do not belong to strong tribes, all the Mussulmans of the vilayet are very remiss in paying their taxes, and that many Mussulman landowners buy the tithes in a similar way to the detriment of the financial interests of the Government.

The Government is evidently in desperate need of money, and it seems that no real reform is possible unless taxes are impartially collected from Christians and Mussulmans alike. From the evidence which I occasionally obtain of the feelings both of Christians and of respectable Mussulmans the general growing conviction of both would seem to be that foreign intervention is desirable and inevitable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 298.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1024.) *Constantinople, December 9, 1896.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two accounts of the massacre of Eghin, which have been communicated to me by Mrs. Rendel Harris.

Mrs. Rendel Harris, who has for the last nine months been engaged in the distribution in Anatolia of relief subscribed by the Society of Friends, visited Eghin about a month after the massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 298.

Account of the Eghin Massacre, by Mrs. Rendel Harris.

EGHIN was, before the massacre of the 15th, 16th, and 17th September, a very beautiful town, situated among the most romantic mountain scenery on a branch of the Euphrates.

Its Armenian population was amongst the most refined, educated, and wealthy of any town in the interior, and many merchants from Constantinople had retired there, expecting to spend their days in peace and prosperity.

The Eghinli ladies were also peculiarly delicate and cultivated in all their tastes and manners.

At the time of the massacres last year the Eghinli Christians paid a large sum of money to those in authority to save themselves from the fate of other cities; they also gave up, through their Bishop, the few fire-arms in their possession. By this act of confidence in the Government they of course rendered themselves entirely helpless in case of attack, but they hoped in so doing to win in return the confidence and protection of those in power.

But, alas! they were rich, and had beautiful dwellings and furniture, and these and their other property the leading Turks had fixed avaricious eyes upon, besides, no doubt, believing that a massacre would please the Sultan, so, after a season of apparent friendliness, they began to talk (and, no doubt, to write to Constantinople) of a Revolutionary Committee, well knowing that none such existed.

Some little time before the massacre the Kaïmakan and officials sent for the leading Christians, and said to them, "We know that there are revolutionists among you; give up ten of them, and we will spare you, otherwise we will punish you all."

The Christians replied, "We are loyal subjects of the Sultan; there are no revolutionists among us. If you please to imprison us, or even to kill us, you must do so, but we cannot denounce our friends." They were then threatened and sent away, and afterwards all of these true men, with the exception of one or two, were brutally murdered in the massacre.

About two or three days before the massacre the roads to the city and the bridges were guarded, and no Armenian was allowed to pass out.

At the same time the Turkish Colonel communicated with the Kurdish Chiefs in the neighbourhood, and the City Council ordered 100 axes to be made, which were afterwards used for slaughter.

As the day fixed for the work of destruction approached, the Armenians became very anxious, and would have closed their shops and remained in hiding, but they were ordered to remain at their places of business, and dared not disobey, for fear of precipitating the evil. Then a false telegram, purporting to be from Constantinople, forbidding massacre, and commanding quiet, was put into the hands of the solitary Armenian member of the Government, and he, deceived and rejoiced at once, sent off a messenger to reassure his friends (and this messenger was the first man killed).

Besides this ruse, and in order to lure the men into the streets, a crier was then sent out, proclaiming, "All is quiet. There is no cause for fear; return to the market-place." At the same time the Kurds were being admitted, and the slaughter after a brief feint of resistance—was commencing in a distant quarter of the city.

Everything on the part of the Government was done with system. The town was searched, and massacred by districts, and lists made each day of those unkilled and to be still sought after; the effort being to kill every man and boy over the age of 15. The lowest computation of numbers gives between 500 and 600 as so slaughtered, and the highest approaches 2,000. Major Bulman, the British Consul at Sivas, thinks about 1,000, but it is very difficult to obtain exact numbers. Many of these were killed with every accompaniment of atrocity.

Then the houses were looted, and the treasure secured was largely divided between those who had planned and carried out this atrocious crime, the Kaïmakam, a young man, since decorated by the Sultan, having, no doubt, the "lion's share."

Almost the entire male Protestant population were killed, and both the Protestant church and Mission house, and the two large Gregorian churches, were looted, all windows smashed, and all available wood-work broken or burned, and from the Gregorian churches much treasure was taken.

Many women and children were killed, as well as their husbands and fathers, and many women were dishonoured; while at the neighbouring village at Pingan, massacred and looted just about the same time, fifteen women drowned themselves, and some threw themselves into the fire to escape the same fate.

Then the houses were fired, and 500 in one quarter, and several hundreds in others, were destroyed; about 800 in all.

The distress of the unhappy survivors of this wickedness, when the killing ceased at the close of three days, was, of course, beyond words to describe. A short time since these women were so happy with husbands, sons, children, and bright beautiful homes. Now all is gone, and only terrible memories of the past, scenes never to be forgotten, and abject misery in the present remain to them. Oh, that the Powers of Europe, who, were they willing to help and redress the wrongs of these helpless ones, have it in their power to do so, could but once see and hear for themselves! It would then be impossible for such events as these to happen one after another, and for the perpetrators of these awful crimes, who should be held up to universal detestation, to be decorated by the Sovereign who certainly is understood all through the interior, by Christian and Moslem alike, heartily to approve of, if not to command, that which is so frightful a blot on the world's history.

But it appears that even Moslem consciences require a semblance of cause for such awful effects, and consequently scapegoats must be found, and only among the Armenians can they be looked for. One of them is therefore summoned by the Government, and introduced into a room with fifteen soldiers with drawn swords standing around. He is ordered to sign a paper denouncing some of those already slain as revolutionists, and as having distributed arms. He refuses, and the naïve answer is given, "But why refuse to sign what we command you to? Those men are dead (just killed in the massacre), and it cannot hurt them, while if you refuse you will certainly be hurt." So he signed. Others were also threatened, and while some refused to give false testimony, enough was obtained in this way for the purposes of the oppressors, and these absurd stories are given with solemn official indorsement by the Sultan to the world as the sufficient cause for the destruction of hundreds of his innocent subjects, and are repeated by the European press as cause why all assistance and sympathy should be refused this suffering people.

Those who believe such palpable falsehoods can, indeed, have but little insight into the true state of affairs in Asiatic Turkey. A month after the atrocities I was in Eghin and heard for myself. Through the liberality of the Society of Friends I had funds at my disposal which were sufficient to provide wheat enough to keep the survivors from starving through the winter, and also to give some clothing and bedding, and the gratitude given in return, far outweighed the gifts.

The survivors are largely widows and orphans; of men, only those of the uninfluential class were left. These unfortunate and bereft creatures are in misery unutterable. By it they cry to Europe for pity and protection, and to God for mercy. Surely a more righteous cause was never offered to the strong in the interest of the oppressed! May God so touch the hearts of those upon whom the responsibility of Governments rests in connection with the Eastern question, that in the shortest time possible these horrors may be tales of the past.

(Signed) HELEN B. HARRIS (Mrs. J. Rendel).

Constantinople, December 7, 1896.

Inclosure 2 in No. 298.

Further Notes by Mrs. Rendel Harris respecting the Eghin Massacre.

(Private.)

THE Turkish official reports of the disturbances at Eghin, charging the Eghinly Christians with having commenced the trouble, is an entire fabrication.

Last year there were a few fire-arms stored in the house of a man living across the river, and these were given to the Government, while the man left the neighbourhood and never returned.

The Kaimakam and other officials knew perfectly that the Armenians were entirely unarmed, but having determined on a massacre (or having been ordered to carry one out) that knowledge only encouraged them to feel sure they could slaughter the Christians without fear of retaliation, and their assurance was fully realized, for during the three days carnage not a Turk or Kurd was killed, or an Armenian shot fired.

False testimony against their helpless victims was all that the Kaimakam (since decorated) needed, and this is how he and his assistants obtained it.

They forced the Bishop of the Gregorian Church (a feeble old man sick in bed from trouble, most of whose priests had been killed) to sign a paper of their drawing up, which he himself confessed to his friends he had never read, accusing the Christians of whatever was wished.

On the second day of the massacre, requiring further evidence, they sent for Alexander Avekian, a Christian, and introduced him into a room guarded by fifteen soldiers with drawn swords, and ordered him to sign a document accusing a certain Nicogos Jamgochian, formerly a most prominent member of the community, a wealthy gentleman most horribly murdered, of having spent money of late, that is since the fire-arms were delivered up last year, in purchasing rifles which had been distributed among the Armenians.

Alexander Avekian replied, "But I know that he did not do so." "What does that matter?" was the answer; "it cannot hurt him now what you say, he is dead: but it will be worse for you if you do not." So under fear of death he signed, also in the same paper accusing Garabet Koungingian and Krikor Eskigian of the same offence.

Forty days after the event this Garabet Koungingian was summoned before the Public Prosecutor and asked to give his testimony against the murdered Nicogos Jamgochian. This, at the risk of his life, he refused to do. They also used with him the same specious argument as with Alexander Avekian, saying, "Nicogos Jamgochian is dead, what harm can it do to you if you if you give this testimony?" Garabet Koungingian nobly replied to this, "You may kill me, but I will not give any such false testimony."

This brave man Garabet Koungingian still lives, but in great danger. Probably ere this he is in prison.

These things I heard when in Eghin only about one month after the event.

(Signed) HELEN B. HARRIS.

Constantinople, December 7, 1896.

No. 299.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1028.)

Constantinople, December 9, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 984 of the 26th November, on the subject of the Kurdish raids in the Vilayet of Van, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum drawn up at my instructions by Colonel Ponsonby dealing with the question of the measures necessary for placing at the Vali's disposal forces sufficient for keeping the Kurds in check.

I have caused a Turkish Memorandum in this sense to be presented to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Colonel Ponsonby to Sir P. Currie.

Sir,

November 29, 1896.

WITH reference to Major Williams' Report upon the depredations committed from time to time by the Kurds in the Vilayet of Van and your Excellency's Minute thereon, I have the honour to submit the following proposals, which, if acted upon, would, I venture to think, effectually suppress all such lawlessness.

I would premise them with the observation that there is no lack of troops, only the inability of the Vali to make use of them:—

1. That His Imperial Majesty the Sultan should grant full authority to the civil authorities to requisition the nearest troops in aid of the civil power whenever required, as is done in every civilized country.

2. That the military authorities should also be empowered to act upon their own responsibility, as is done in every civilized country, to prevent depredations in cases where time does not admit of formal requisition for their aid on the part of the civil authorities, the military detachment employed being always, when practicable, accompanied by the nearest local representative of the civil authority.

3. That the Headman of each Kurd village be held personally responsible for all depredations committed by any members of his community, and that he be heavily punished should he omit in the case of his influence being insufficient to check a raid, either to give timely notice of an impending raid, or, if effected, the names of the delinquents.

4. That to bring home to peaceful inhabitants a sense of protection, as well as to impress upon the Kurds the determination of His Imperial Majesty to protect his subjects from their lawlessness, a Proclamation be issued to the effect that any Kurd caught *in flagrante delicto* shall be summarily tried and punished on the spot, also that unlawful possession constitutes a crime.

5. As a supplementary measure, and only when and where considered necessary by the Vali, a system of patrols for purposes of observation and prevention be adopted. Any attempt to force these would, of course, be a direct violation of Imperial authority and would be treated accordingly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. PONSONBY.

No. 300.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1029.)

Constantinople, December 9, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 498 of the 27th June reporting the sentences passed on the Narman prisoners, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a Petition on behalf of the seven prisoners who were condemned to death, and pointing out various considerations in favour of their free pardon, or at any rate of a commutation of their sentences. I propose to present a Memorandum on the case to the Sublime Porte, and I have instructed Mr. Block to press constantly for the pardon of the prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 300.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 120.)

Erzeroum, November 20, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that three or four days ago the inclosed Petition was left at this Consulate on behalf of the seven Narman prisoners who were condemned to death on the 11th June last, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency No. 72 of the 26th June.

It seems to me that the following considerations should be urged forcibly in favour of granting a free pardon to these prisoners, or at least commuting their sentences. In the first place they were condemned on tainted and one-sided evidence after an inquiry conducted by Magistrates, some of whom have subsequently been dismissed for corruption and misconduct. Little doubt exists that the real perpetrators of the crime were the brigand Kolik Oghlou and his band, who have successfully evaded arrest, while these prisoners, if guilty at all were so as instigators only, the victims being the reputed murderers, unpunished by Turkish justice, of their near relatives and friends.

Secondly, they have already undergone over five years' imprisonment and the moral torture of being twice condemned to death, the sentence being allowed to hang over their heads for many months: add to this the sight of their sixteen companions who died by inches in prison, and the knowledge that their families were being starved, ruined, and dispersed, and their property taken possession of by Mussulmans.

And, finally, I believe I am correct in saying that for years past in this part of Turkey no Mussulman has ever been condemned to death for any of the countless murders of Christians which have taken place. So far as I know, one Mussulman only was condemned to a term of imprisonment for the peculiarly brutal and cold-blooded murder of an Armenian at Erzeroum after the massacres of last year, when Shakir Pasha had solemnly assured the foreign Consuls that the man would certainly be hanged for his crime. I need hardly point out the conclusion that must logically be drawn if the Sultan's Iradé goes forth for the execution of these seven unfortunates, in a case where reasonable doubt and extenuating circumstances can so well be pleaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 300.

Petition of Seven Narman Prisoners under Sentence of Death.

A son Excellence M. le Consul-Général du Gouvernement Anglais à Erzeroum :

M. le Consul-Général,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants de Akrak et de Vikias, villages de Narman, un des districts du Vilayet d'Erzeroum, avons été condamnés à mort depuis cinq mois de la part du Conseil de Revision local. Le dossier de notre procès a été envoyé à la Cour de Cassation. Quelle fut notre surprise d'entendre ce terrible arrêt, vu notre parfaite innocence.

Permettez-moi, Excellence, de vous expliquer, en quelques termes, la cause de notre arrestation.

On a trouvé, il y a justement six ans, trois Arméniens, villageois de Vikias, horriblement mutilés dans la forêt contiguë à notre district. Les malfaiteurs se sont soustraits à la justice. Une année après ce meurtre effrayant, quatre Turcs ont été trouvés assassinés aux environs de la même forêt. A ce délit, l'autorité a, peu à peu, arrêté soixante-deux Arméniens, habitants des susdits villages, comme complices ou étant au courant de ce crime.

Nous croyons superflu de peindre les souffrances que nous avons supportées, nous et nos familles, durant notre détention. Seize d'entre nous sont morts en prison et la plupart mis en liberté. Quant à nous Soussignés nous avons subi la sentence la plus sévère qui, loin d'être basée sur des démonstrations qui puissent nous inculper de complicité, a été donnée sur les fausses témoignages de certains parents des assassinés. Toutes les preuves qu'ont alléguées ces témoins sont dépourvues de base et incapables d'affirmer notre culpabilité; par conséquent elles n'ont point de valeur ni devant la justice ni devant la conscience. Tout convaincus que nous sommes de notre innocence, nous gémissons pourtant sous la triste pensée d'être injustement condamnés à mort. A qui en appeler donc si ce n'est qu'à votre Gouvernement, qui protège l'innocent opprimé? Qu'il jette, nous le supplions, un regard de pitié sur nous, qui dépérissons dans les cachots de la prison et sur nos enfants malheureux que la mort moissonne de jour en jour à défaut du nécessaire.

Pour amples renseignements au sujet de notre procès et pour avoir une pleine conviction à l'égard de notre innocence, veuillez vous adresser au Patriarchat Arménien, qui peut vous satisfaire pleinement sous ce rapport.

En plein espoir de goûter un jour notre liberté perdue, grâce à la grande influence de votre Gouvernement et à votre bonté connue, nous sommes, Excellence, avec le respect le plus profond vos très humbles serviteurs.

(L.S.) KRIKOR EREMIAN.
ZOKAR SAKOIAN (son fils).
SAKO KEHIA (vieillard âgé de 90 ans).
MARDIROS GHAZARIAN.
GARABET MINASSIAN.
DAVID SARKISSIAN.
ALEXAN BOGHOSSIAN.

Erzeroum, le 7 (19) *Novembre*, 1896.

No. 301.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14.)

(No. 1030. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1896.

FOR some months past there has been much talk in Constantinople of a movement of the "Young Turkey party" against the Sultan. It is not easy to determine how far this "party" implies an active political organization as opposed to a general sympathy with liberal ideas, but it may be safely said that the great majority of Turks in the upper classes who have received some tincture of European education, read with avidity (when they can do so with safety) the "Meshveret" and other so-called revolutionary and seditious publications printed abroad, and ardently desire the deposition of the present Sultan, together with some guarantee that in future the country shall not be governed by the personal caprice of the Sovereign. Turks of the old school are naturally unfavourably disposed to any movement which rests on an imitation of Western ideas, but on the other hand, the tyranny of the present régime is widely felt, and the many flaws which can be found in the Sultan's title to the Caliphate make such fanatical and anti-European classes as the Dervishes, Softas, and Ulema, ready to entertain revolutionary ideas.

Repeated overtures have been made during the autumn to more than one foreign Mission by a high Turkish officer, who represented himself as the head of an organization directed against the continuance of the present reign. I myself have thought it best to discourage all such advances, but one of my colleagues, who had an interview with the officer in question, was told that it had been arranged to attack the Palace of Yildiz, with such troops as had been gained over to the cause, on a Sunday, the day being chosen because the Christian shops would then be shut and less exposed to pillage in the event of a disturbance. The officer further stated that the superior officers of about half the troops round Yildiz, and of all those quartered in Stamboul, had been won over; that artillery would be placed on the opposite shore of the Bosphorus so as to command Yildiz; and the telegraph wires be cut so as to completely isolate the Imperial Palace. It was not intended to kill the Sultan (though another party thought this was the only solution), but to force him to abdicate in favour of his deposed brother Murad, who would be declared to have regained his sanity. A responsible Ministry, the list of which had already been prepared, would then be appointed.

The only reason which delayed the execution of this design was the fear that any disturbance might bring about an immediate descent of Russia on Constantinople. The Young Turkey party regretted that England took up the cause of the Armenians instead of helping the whole Ottoman Empire, and they would be ready to act at once if they were only sure that, in the event of any disorders, the British fleet would pass the Dardanelles, and not leave the capital at the mercy of Russia.

I give this information for what it is worth, for though it comes direct from an authentic source, it is only one of many versions given of the form the conspiracy is to take.

Another is that the Council of Ministers will be seized while sitting in the Porte, and forced to proclaim the Constitution.

According to a third story, a large house has been hired in Stamboul, and Reshad Effendi, the Sultan's younger brother, will be secretly conveyed there, and proclaimed Sovereign, Abd-ul-Hamid being at the same time deposed by a Fetva of the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

It does not seem certain that any of these plans were ever really near execution, but it is rumoured that a body of conspirators had arranged to make some attempt at the Selamlik last Friday. They are said to have believed that M. de Nélidow, who returns in a week, is likely to introduce some reforms under Russian influence, and they desired to precipitate matters and act before his arrival. Others, however, think that the recent vigorous action of the Sultan against the Young Turkey party can be explained, without supposing that any plot was discovered. His Majesty is said to have openly boasted to his *entourage* that he had got the better of Europe over the Armenian question, and now intended to deal with the revolutionary Moslem element.

Whatever may have been His Majesty's motives, it is obvious that he has endeavoured to make a clean sweep of the Young Turkey party from Constantinople. During the past week some 700 people were arrested and interrogated at the Palace, and several hundred exiled. I learn from a functionary who lives near Yildiz, that all night long carriages kept driving up filled with prisoners. The persons exiled include a large number of high officials, some of whom have received posts in the provinces, to render their removal less conspicuous. Kiazim Pasha, "Commandant de la Place" of Stamboul, has been named to Monastir, and it is said that Nazim Bey, the late Minister of Police, who has already been obliged to leave for the provinces, will be appointed Governor of Adana. Others who have been banished are Housni Bey, Director of the Stamboul Police; Salih Pasha, Commandant of Gendarmerie; the Inspector of Guard-houses, the Chief Clerk at the Artillery Factory, and numerous officials of the Police and Telegraph services. Two Pashas, 22 Aides-de-camp and civil functionaries of the Palace, 15 officers and sergeants of the Military School, and 350 individuals of the lower classes were embarked on the steamer "Djanik" and exiled to Tripoli in Barbary. Others were put on board a steamer called "Mekke" and sent to the Vilayets of Castamouni and Trebizond.

As an instance, I may mention the case of a well-to-do Albanian Mussulman who was personally known to members of my Embassy and to the British colony at Kadikeui, where he resided. He is nearly 80 years of age and generally respected, and though a man of liberal views, to the best of my belief not engaged in any revolutionary movement. About a week ago the police entered his harem in the middle of the night and carried him off, refusing to give any explanations as to his destination. On inquiring next day his family, though they had many friends in official and Palace circles, were unable to ascertain anything except that he was at Yildiz. After being kept there for four days, during which time he saw no one and was asked no questions, he was dismissed as suddenly as he had been summoned and informed, without any reason being assigned, that he was to proceed to the Vilayet of Castamouni. He was then and there embarked on the steamer "Mekke" as he was, and not allowed even to take a great-coat with him.

Arbitrary as these proceedings may sound, they are gentleness itself compared to the treatment said to have been received by others. Though great caution must be used in accepting the stories always current here of the horrors which are enacted at Yildiz, I fear there is little doubt that torture is employed there to obtain evidence. This morning I received a message from the officer above referred to, asking if it was not possible for the Embassies to protest, "contre acte d'humanité," against these cruelties. He stated that he knew for certain that torture had been extensively used in the past week. Some persons had been confined for two or three days in small dark cells with water up to their waists, others had been burnt by live coals being placed on their heads and persons, or by hard eggs, just taken out of boiling water, being bound in their armpits; others had been brutally beaten with heavy clubs.

I am informed that in spite of the numbers banished, the Young Turkey party still consider they can make an attempt when a favourable opportunity occurs, and that none of the arms which they possess have been discovered. Past experience, however, seems to show that they are more ready to talk than to take any action.

I may add that though I have declined to have any dealings with the revolutionary party, I have reason to believe that the Palace officials are very anxious to prove that its plans are encouraged by Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorial which has been sent to the Ambassadors by the "Ottoman Liberal Committee."*

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

* Not printed.

No. 302.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1031.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 10, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana reporting on the distress prevailing in the district of Khozan and the distribution of relief carried on there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 302.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Adana, November 20, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to convey my sincere thanks for the further grant of 500 liras which your Excellency has so kindly obtained for the suffering Khozan Christians, in reply to my appeals, making in all 1,000 liras apportioned recently to those parts.

I have announced this further grant to the Rev. J. C. Martin, whose indefatigable labours in distributing relief and in guiding the Christian population are deserving of the highest gratitude and praise.

I beg to give an extract from a recent letter received from that gentleman, which will acquaint your Excellency with the lines upon which we are jointly working in that poverty-stricken district.

I trust that matters may improve with the present assistance given, but I have grave fears that matters will not long remain settled in those and many other parts.

We labour under the grave disadvantage of having an octogenarian Governor-General, whose opinion carries no weight with any of his subordinates.

Quotation: "As to relief, I have distributed about 350 liras of the 500 authorized for Khozan district. About 200 were used in Shahr, 90 in Roumloo, and the balance, so far used, in Zerobakan and Hadjin. I am buying some horses and donkeys for the most destitute Hadjinlis. With the balance in hand, at least with 100 liras more, I think I can put the people in a fair way to get along until I come back, that is provided they are not shut up here all the winter. Then if we get a grant of 400 or 500 liras I'll try to start some permanent industries next spring.

"I am delighted to find that your mood and desire correspond to this. I have been thinking about this matter a great deal, and your last letter gave me much encouragement. I hope we shall be able to start alaja making, and perhaps rug making, as well as other industries, before many months pass. It would be an inestimable blessing to this poor people.

"I am just now giving a lira here and there to the poorest families that they may make boolgur enough to last them five or six months.

"In this way I hope there will be no need for a general distribution during my absence." (Dated Hadjin, 7th November.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 303.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1032.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 10, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mersina, reporting that orders have been received for the introduction of reforms and the free emigration of Armenians under certain conditions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Adana, November* 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that orders for the introduction of the new reforms have reached this province, accompanied by a letter conveying the Sultan's personal wish that all his people, of all creeds, should live together in brotherly peace.

I conversed with the Mutessarif of Mersina on the subject of these reforms which he read to me, and he expressed himself pleased with them, with hopes that they might be fairly carried out.

As many of the Government officials are alive to the fact that their Ruler has done his best, so far, to ruin his country, there is some slight hope that this better-intentioned body may now introduce, gradually, a trial of a more pacifying policy towards the Armenian population.

Permission is now given to Armenians to leave this country, provided they avail themselves of it within the next two months and sign a promise never to return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 304.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1033.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the pecuniary difficulties of the Government in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 70.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 29, 1896.

THE incessant calls of the Central Government for remittances is fast plunging the provincial authorities into a state of pecuniary difficulties.

How to conduct public affairs satisfactorily under such conditions is a problem which may well tax the intellect of the ablest Governor.

Cadri Bey, who finds its solution from day to day more perplexing, is determined, however, to maintain order to the last. He hopes to do so by neither stinting the rations of the troops or withholding the pay of the gendarmerie and police. It is to be trusted that he will be able to carry out this laudable intention without in any way endangering his own position, or in other words, with the approval of His Majesty the Sultan.

The ordinary expenditure of the vilayet amounts to about 130,000*l.* against a revenue of 370,000*l.*, of which 240,000*l.* were transmitted regularly to Constantinople. Now it is different, for even the reserve funds of pensions, pious institutions, and public works are being withdrawn, figuring, together, a total of some 20,000*l.*

Under such circumstances it is natural enough that taxes should be collected with some severity. The payment of arrears are exacted by imprisonment, and no excuses are found admissible, save those of the Armenians who had suffered during the disturbances of October 1895. Such alone are treated, it is satisfactory to add, with all due consideration and leniency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 305.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1034.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 10, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the action of the Commissions of Inquiry and Control sent out by the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November* 30, 1896.

ONE of the outgrowths of the political situation appears to be the appointment of various Commissions, some of Inquiry and others of Control. None, however, sent to this vilayet can be taken to be the percursors of reforms, as is obvious enough from the following two rather typical examples:—

The first has not yet arrived, though expected for the last fortnight. It is composed of two civil and two military men, selected by the Sultan, to inquire into the conduct of the Vali, Cadri Bey. Its mission is by no means an edifying one, starting as it does on false and absurd allegations brought against his Excellency by Major Riza Bey, an officer with a bad record, who had recently been removed from his command at Uniah on being discovered to harbour brigands.

The other Commission is a permanent one, formed of three individuals, named Major Kinzim Bey, Hussein Effendi, and Nesha Bey, who represent respectively the Ministries of War, Police, and Interior. They arrived here about six weeks ago with authority to search travellers arriving and departing, and to examine merchandize imported and exported. Their overbearing manners are described as intolerable, while their vexatious interference in what does not concern their duties is giving umbrage to the local authorities. No official dares to oppose them, however closely he may be watched and overshadowed by these men, known, as they are, to be in secret telegraphic communication with Yildiz Kiosk. Their presence at Trebizond is not likely to inspire or enhance in any functionary here feelings of devotion, loyalty, or respect for the Head of the State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 306.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 1037.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 10, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 985 of the 26th ultimo, reporting the election on the 18th November of the new Armenian Patriarch, Mgr. Ormanian, I have now the honour to report that the Imperial Iradé sanctioning his election was not issued until the 30th of the same month. The formal installation of the Patriarch took place on the 2nd December, and on the 5th his Beatitude proceeded to the Palace to do homage, and was received in audience by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Address which he delivered.

In reply, His Imperial Majesty expressed his pleasure that the choice of the Armenian people had fallen on a person concerning whom he had received on all sides such excellent reports, and his satisfaction at the sentiments uttered by his Beatitude.

His Majesty added that he hoped that the Armenian nation would continue in its

traditions of time-honoured loyalty, and that he counted on the efforts of the Patriarch to maintain it in this course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Address delivered by the Armenian Patriarch to His Majesty the Sultan.

Sire,

VOTRE Majesté Impériale ayant pleine confiance dans les sentiments de parfaite fidélité dont je n'ai cessé d'être pénétré, a daigné confirmer ma nomination au poste si élevé de Patriarche, et m'accorder la faveur d'être admis dans sa haute présence. Je ne saurais l'en remercier assez profondément.

Tant en ma qualité de Prélat qu'en celle de sujet Ottoman, j'aurai à cœur de remplir loyalement et fidèlement ma tâche en ayant recours à la miséricorde du Tout-Puissant, et en mettant toute ma confiance en l'auguste bienveillance de votre Majesté Impériale.

Sire,

La nation Arménienne qui depuis des siècles a été l'objet des faveurs de vos glorieux ancêtres, et a joui de nombreux privilèges religieux, et qui s'est attachée au Trône impérial comme à son plus sûr refuge, bénéficiera sans nul doute d'une prospérité parfaite sous les auspices généreux de votre Majesté Impériale dont la haute sollicitude ne lui fera jamais défaut.

J'ai l'insigne honneur d'assurer votre Majesté que la réputation de fidélité que cette nation s'est acquise à juste titre ne sera point démentie, et que nous attendrons de votre magnanimité le maintien du bien-être de notre peuple ainsi que de ses immunités et privilèges religieux.

Ici suit une prière pour Sa Majesté.

No. 307.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 387. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 5, 1896.*

I CALLED yesterday on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, when his Excellency told me that he had heard nothing further respecting the course it was proposed to take in regard to the introduction of reforms in the administration of Turkey, now that the Russian Government had modified their views in respect to your Lordship's proposals, beyond the fact that *pourparlers* were going on on the subject between the Cabinets of London and St. Petersburgh.

For himself, Count Goluchowski went on to say, he had already clearly defined his attitude. He was perfectly ready to authorize the Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues upon the reforms to be introduced, but once agreed upon, his Excellency repeated to me in still stronger language than he had used before, that he was firmly decided not to join in any presentation of such reforms to the Sultan without a definite guarantee that they would be executed, that is to say, a distinct agreement between the Powers that, if need be, recourse would be had to coercive measures.

I remarked to Count Goluchowski that I was glad to see that he appeared to share your Lordship's views so fully in regard to the necessity of a prior understanding for the eventual employment of material pressure, and from his Excellency's observations is was clear that he had no intention of agreeing to the Russian idea that the question of coercive measures should only be taken into consideration in the event of difficulties being placed in the way of the execution of the reforms after their presentation to the Sultan.

Count Goluchowski then proceeded to allude to the Circular of the Porte to the Turkish Ambassadors on the subject of the action of the Turkish Government in regard to Armenian and other reforms, a document which was replete with unmeaning phrases, and said that he had told Mahmoud Bey that he must be very much mistaken if he thought that it had made the slightest impression on him. These assurances on

the part of the Porte were without any significance whatever, as indeed was evidenced every day by the difficulties which were being placed in the way of the execution of reforms agreed upon in Crete and other parts of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 308.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 394. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 11, 1896.*

IN the course of a visit which I paid yesterday to Count Goluchowski, his Excellency told me that he was somewhat surprised at the news imparted to Count Deym by your Lordship, to the effect that M. Hanotaux had expressed himself as averse to the mention of any coercive measures being intended at Constantinople in the event of the Sultan refusing to carry out the reforms which might be agreed upon.

Upon my remarking that M. Cambon at least seemed to be of opinion that the exercise of some kind of control was necessary at Constantinople, and that I understood Sir Philip Currie was not without hope of a satisfactory result being obtained from the discussions of the Ambassadors, Count Goluchowski replied that he believed this view was also shared by M. Nélidow, who was equally sanguine.

His Excellency went on to tell me that he had received a telegram from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, stating that M. Nélidow was leaving for Constantinople with instructions, as I understood him to say, to inform the Porte that the intervention of the Powers would eventually become necessary if the Sultan should continue to neglect the execution of salutary reforms.

Before taking leave of Count Goluchowski, I alluded to the recent discussions that had taken place in the press on the subject of the Dardanelles, to which he replied that the information he had received from St. Petersburgh, as well as the remarks made to him by the Russian Ambassador here, tended to show that the Russian Government had no intention of raising the question of the Straits at the present moment. The circulation of these and similar reports in the public press of Russia was, he seemed to think, in a great measure due to the present provisional régime at St. Petersburgh, and to the absence of a strong guiding hand at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honour to add that Prince Liechtenstein, the Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who was received by Count Goluchowski this afternoon, leaves Vienna to-night for Russia on the termination of his leave of absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 309.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 384. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 15, 1896.*

I TRANSMIT, for your Excellency's confidential information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, recording a conversation with the French Ambassador at this Court on the subject of the proposed joint action of the Powers for the introduction of reforms in the administration of the Ottoman Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 310.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 16, 1896.*

IT does not appear that Count Goluchowski elicited anything new in regard to the intentions of the Russian Government during the interview with M. Nélidow.

His Excellency has told me that the Ambassador's instructions are to speak to the Sultan very seriously concerning the consequences to which, by a continued refusa to carry out the wishes of the Powers, His Majesty will expose himself, but that he has no other definite instructions beyond this.

It was, however, noted with satisfaction by Count Goluchowski that, in contradiction to statements made by the Russian press, M. de Nélidow recognized that if it was impossible for the Powers to act without Russia, it was as impossible for Russia to act without the Powers.

No. 311.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December 16, 1896, 6·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 506 A of the 10th December:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs said to me to-day that it was incorrect to state that he had ever refused to join the other Powers in coercive measures, and that he is prepared to discuss them, if all the Powers agree to do so. He still thinks, however, that great danger lies in the employment of coercion, and remains as strongly as ever opposed to it on principle. With regard to this point his Excellency's tone never varies, and the German and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors here seem to hold the same views, in which it is possible they may be encouraging him.

If the employment of force were necessary for the repression of violence, M. Hanotaux would not persist in his objection, but, in his opinion, there is not nearly so much danger now of such a contingency arising.

He sent a telegram (of which he read me the next) three or four days ago to Constantinople, in which he instructed M. Cambon to act in concert with the other Ambassadors with regard to the reforms, &c., . . . provided that all the Representatives of the Powers had received equivalent authority.

(Secret.)

It is certain that the fact of the Russian Government having sent an answer to your Lordship's Circular without having consulted M. Hanotaux has annoyed him considerably, but his own version is that, as he had previously put himself forward, he is afraid of being accused of a wish to assume the lead, and has therefore thought it better of late to avoid taking a too prominent position.

No. 312.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 486.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 17, 1896, 5·50 P.M.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW, who returned yesterday, informs me that he is authorized to discuss with the Ambassadors what will be the best means (1) to ameliorate the present state of affairs, (2) to prevent a recurrence of disturbances, (3) to insure the safety of the Christians.

The question of coercion, he understands, is not to be touched until the recommendation of the Ambassadors has been drawn up. It will then be possible, either before or after the presentation of these recommendations, to discuss the methods of bringing pressure to bear on the Sultan.

No. 313.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 487. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 17, 1896, 5·50 P.M.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW tells me that he has been instructed to inform the Sultan that the Ambassadors are about to exchange views respecting those Turkish affairs which have for some time past preoccupied the Great Powers, and that the Emperor has commanded him to strongly urge His Imperial Majesty to adopt the recommendations which may be made to him as the Powers are unanimous, and a rejection of their advice might bring about intervention.

No. 314.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 394. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 17, 1896.*

I TOLD M. Hanotaux yesterday that I had been informed by your Lordship that, in conversation with the Baron de Courcel, you had expressed the apprehension, founded on my reports of what had passed between his Excellency and myself, that under no circumstances would he agree to the employment of coercive measures against the Sultan; and that the French Ambassador had assured you that I must have misunderstood M. Hanotaux' language.

His Excellency replied that if I had stated such a thing I had certainly misrepresented him. He had no intention of separating himself from the action of the other Powers, if they all decided on the expediency of taking into consideration the question of the employment of coercion in the contingency contemplated by your Lordship's Circular. Moreover, there could be no question of any hesitation on the part of the French Government should circumstances arise making it necessary to use force for the prevention of such violence as would endanger the safety of the Europeans in Constantinople, and for the arresting of massacres, &c. Subject, however, to these limitations, his opinion as to the inexpediency of having recourse to coercion for the purpose of imposing reforms on the Sultan is as strong as ever, and he cannot but believe that such a course would lead to war.

To show me that although he had not yet replied to your Lordship's Circular he had in effect complied with your request M. Hanotaux sent for, and read to me, the draft of a telegram which he had sent four or five days ago to M. Cambon, instructing him, if he found that M. de Nélidow and his other colleagues were authorized to do so, to associate himself with their action.

I thanked M. Hanotaux for this communication, and proceeded to explain that as in his previous conversations with me he had laid great stress upon his views on the subject of coercion I had thought it my duty to report that language faithfully; and that my doing so, coupled no doubt with the fact that he had delayed so long to answer your Lordship's Circular, had led you to believe that his aversion to the employment of coercion might possibly go the length described by you in your conversation with Baron de Courcel; although I had not reported his Excellency as having explicitly declared his intention of taking no part in the discussion of coercive measures; nor had your Lordship said more to Baron de Courcel than that you apprehended that such might be his decision.

M. Hanotaux answered that his delay in sending his official reply to your Lordship, which was partly due to his desire to hear from me explanation of the exact nature of your wishes, had also been in part prompted by the feeling that as he had himself taken not very long ago a certain initiative in pressing the Sultan, it would be as well that he should not appear too zealous in this direction, nor afford any excuse for the supposition that he was anxious to take the lead into his own hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 315.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 395. Secret.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 394 of this day's date, reporting my conversation with M. Hanotaux on the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 506 A, I am anxious to state that I find my German and Austro-Hungarian colleagues hold views, nearly, if not quite, as strong as his Excellency does in regard to the employment of coercion towards the Sultan. According to them, the Governments which they represent have no wish to engage themselves further than to consent to discuss the question if all the other Powers are agreed upon doing so.

In fact, their language would induce me to conclude that while Germany and Austria would not like to assume the onus of refusing, they would be only too glad if it were found to be impossible to come to a preliminary agreement upon this point.

I have said to my Austro-Hungarian colleague that according to my information Count Goluchowski does not share this view; but Count Wolkenstein only replied that he had not recently heard from Vienna on the subject.

In the telegram to M. Cambon, referred to in my preceding despatch, M. Hanotaux lays stress on the duty of the French Ambassador to act in unison with M. de Nélidow. In reading it to me his Excellency emphasized this part of the instruction by tone and by raising his eyes to mine, an emphasis which had only the effect of confirming my conviction of the irritation which has been caused him by the action of M. Chichkine in sending a reply to your Lordship's Circular without previous consultation with France. This irritation, of the existence of which I have been informed from more than one trustworthy source, has probably contributed to M. Hanotaux' delay in sending his own answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 316.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 403. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 18, 1896.*

COUNT WOLKENSTEIN, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, called upon me late this afternoon, and said that he was anxious to be confirmed, by anything I could tell him, in his views as to M. Hanotaux' position in regard to the discussion of coercive measures to be employed against the Sultan in the event of His Ottoman Majesty refusing to follow the counsels of the Powers in regard to reforms.

His Excellency said that there seemed to be some doubt as to what M. Hanotaux' real views were, but that on two successive reception days at the Quai d'Orsay the Minister for Foreign Affairs had used such exceedingly strong language that he could have no doubt of his Excellency's deeply rooted antipathy to agree to such a discussion as that proposed in your Lordship's Circular.

M. Hanotaux had said, it was true, that if all the other Powers consented he would not refuse to discuss the question; but, added my Austrian colleague, Berlin and Rome seem, as yet, to have sent no answer, and all this hesitation is exceedingly mystifying.

I answered that M. Hanotaux' language to me had been equally strong, so much so that your Lordship had concluded that his objections would be insuperable; but that M. Hanotaux had also now said that he would not stand out against the other Powers if they all agreed on this point. I then remarked that Count Goluchowski was, as I understood, warmly in favour of your Lordship's views, to which Count Wolkenstein agreed, although in the course of conversation he complained that it was with great difficulty that he ever got any information from Vienna, and that when it did arrive it was usually too late to be of use.

In connection with this, he observed that he had this day received despatches, sent

yesterday by messenger from Vienna, and had been bitterly disappointed at finding that there was not one word from Count Goluchowski on the subject of his recent interviews with M. de Nélidow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 317.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 19, 1896.*

WITH reference to the telegram from Sir E. Monson, marked Secret and Confidential, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 192, I have the honour to report that I was recently informed by Count Goluchowski that he had spoken to M. de Nélidow concerning the aversion apparently felt by M. Hanotaux to the employment of coercion, but that the Ambassador did not understand his action and knew nothing of it.

The line adopted by M. Hanotaux is attributed by Count Goluchowski himself to the irritation caused by the failure of the proposals made by him.

I have never noticed anything in the language used by Count Goluchowski to justify the views of the Austrian Ambassador at Paris.

Though Count Goluchowski is of opinion that the mere threat of coercion on the part of all the Powers would probably suffice to insure the Sultan's giving way, he has lately been very strong with regard to the necessity of being prepared to apply it.

No. 318.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 488. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 20, 1896, 12·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 486 of the 17th December, I asked M. de Nélidow in the course of conversation whether his instructions mentioned the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. He replied that it was not mentioned specifically, but was understood to be a condition of the concert of the Powers.

He observed, subsequently, that it might be safer not to make integrity an absolute condition, as coercion, if it had to be applied, might necessitate some interference with the integrity of the Empire.

This observation, though only a casual one, possibly indicates views held at St. Petersburgh, and I have therefore thought it best to report it to your Lordship.

No. 319.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 489.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 20, 1896, 12·50 P.M.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW, at a meeting of Ambassadors which took place yesterday at the Austrian Embassy, read his instructions, which authorized him to concert with his colleagues for the improvement of the Administration and the maintenance of order in the Ottoman Empire.

It was stated that your Lordship has proposed to the other Powers that identic instructions should be drawn up for the Ambassadors, and, pending the receipt of such instructions, it was agreed that we should hold meetings at which the situation would be informally discussed and views exchanged.

The other Representatives had no definite instructions, but considered themselves as generally authorized to discuss the situation. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 23rd December.

No. 320.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 20.*)

(No. 490. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 20, 1896, 12·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 489 of to-day, your Lordship will notice that there is a discrepancy between the points for discussion mentioned by M. de Nélidow (reported in my telegram No. 486) and the instructions read by him at the meeting yesterday.

His explanation of this was that in the former he had included the substance of the instructions sent to M. de Staal by M. Chichkine (see inclosure in your Lordship's despatch No. 373 of the 1st December). I think it would be desirable that all three points should be included in our instructions, and the wording of the two first points in No. 486 is, I consider, preferable.

No. 321.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 20.*)

(No. 491.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 20, 1896, 1·15 P.M.*

THE following is M. Nélidow's account, as given at a meeting of Ambassadors yesterday, of the audience he had with the Sultan.

He explained to His Imperial Majesty that the state of Turkey had been the cause of constant anxiety to the Powers of Europe, who had accordingly ordered their Ambassadors to come to an understanding as to the remedies which might be applied to the situation. He was instructed strongly to advise His Majesty to accept such recommendations as might be made to him. His Majesty would expose himself to very great dangers, even to the risk of intervention, if he refused to comply.

The Sultan, who did not seem altogether unprepared for this communication, replied that he hoped that the advice that would be given would not be of too painful a kind or too difficult for him to execute, and would not be a danger to his Empire or encroach on his sovereign rights.

The Russian Ambassador said that the object of the Powers would be to maintain the Ottoman Empire, and that, therefore, there was no real ground for apprehension, but that it was possible that if representations were made against persons in the service of the Sultan whose misconduct was known to the Ambassadors, His Majesty might consider that his sovereign rights had been attacked.

In reply, the Sultan remarked that the Ambassadors were not always well informed, and that the Consular Reports were often incorrect. M. de Nélidow pointed out that when the independent information of each of the Six Powers agreed, it could hardly be erroneous.

His Majesty said he would do what he could, and a discussion followed on the details of the application of reforms, in which his Excellency maintained that on many points connected with the Administration and the reforms, His Majesty was incorrectly informed. The Sultan threw the blame of this on his Ministers, to whom he said he had given stringent orders. M. de Nélidow suggested as a remedy for this that they should be made responsible.

The Sultan then informed his Excellency that an amnesty would be granted in a few days to the Armenians, with the exception only of those accused of assassination. These would be sent to penal settlements. A difficulty arose, however, with regard to those who had left the country. This, M. de Nélidow urged, should not be a cause for delaying the issue of the amnesty.

No. 322.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 20, 1896.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 489 of to-day reporting the proceedings at a meeting of the Ambassadors on the 19th instant, and stating that I was reported to have proposed to the other Powers that identic instructions should be drawn up and sent to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I cannot account for the origin of this report. No such suggestion was ever made by me.

No. 323.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 21.*)

(No. 1040.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 11, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 909 of the 4th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana respecting the unsatisfactory condition of the Hadjin district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Vice-Consul Mazey to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Adana, November 28, 1896.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 54 of the 23rd October on the transfer of Ismail Bey from Hadjin to Aintab, and the generally unsatisfactory state of the former district, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that disquieting news has reached me, which confirms the fears I expressed in the above-named report.

I give the news in the words as it has reached me:—

"*Hadjin, November 14, 1896.*

"Word came in yesterday that Roumloo has been sacked on the very anniversary of last year's sacking. As I understand, the principal loss has been in cattle (goats and oxen), and the most of these can be recovered, if the Government undertakes to do it. The Vekil assured me yesterday that the stolen property would be brought back. The Mudir is now in Roumloo. The Vekil proposes to make Shahr the Merkez of that Municipality, so as to secure better protection for it. To the east of us, also, this week, flocks were led off, and horses and donkeys belonging to wood choppers were taken from them. One of the owners, also, is still missing. The Vekil sent an officer after the thieves, and told him to pursue them, if need be, as far as Oorfa, and if he failed to find them, not to show his face in Hadjin. In a former letter I mentioned that the prisoners had been sent down to Adana. It is now reported that they have all been sentenced, some to sixteen years and others to shorter terms.

"Last week six more prisoners were sent to Adana, among them being three leading Aghas, one the Head of the Armenian community. Some are charged with being implicated in the murder case I mentioned in a previous letter, while the others are suspected of insurrectionary tendencies. This week another batch of prisoners was made here, chiefly prominent men. It is not known what they have been imprisoned for. They have not been charged with any crime, nor have they been summoned to give evidence.

"The Government claims that insurrectionists from other parts have come into the town, and a great show of watching at night, &c., is being made. It looks rather as if the plot were on the other side. This trumping up of baseless charges

is not reassuring, especially when one recalls the sequence of a similar course in other places."

With reference to the above, I would respectfully beg to suggest that your Excellency assist me by action at Constantinople to rouse our lethargic Governor-General into energetic action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 324.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 1045.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput respecting the risings of Kisil-Bash Kurds in Agcha-Tagh and the Dersim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Kharput, November 24, 1896.*

IN confirmation of my telegram to your Excellency of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, according to information received by me from reliable sources here, a Kizil-Bash tribe of Kurds, known as the "Kian Ashireti," inhabiting the Caza of Agcha-Tagh, and numbering upwards of 15,000 men, has now risen in arms, harried and burned three or four Turkish villages, and killed a number of the villagers. The movement is attributed to a desire on the part of the Kurds to wreak vengeance upon their Turkish neighbours for the destruction of Kizil-Bash villages and massacre of the inhabitants (as reported in my despatch No. 15 of the 19th May last), for which, in spite of appeals to Constantinople, no redress has as yet been given.

The Commandant of Kharput informs me that no great importance is to be attached to the rising, which originates, he believes, in a simple tribal feud between Kizil-Bash and Sunni—not in a desire for revenge upon the Moslems; and that a battalion of troops has been sent from Malatia to restore order.

Gamgonun Oglou Yussouf Aga, a powerful Kizil-Bash Chief of the Dersim region, was arrested recently for raiding Mussulman villages, and was imprisoned at Khozat. Some 800 men of his tribe made a descent, I am informed, upon that town, with the object of rescuing and carrying him off. A cordon of troops, however, was formed, and the Kurds were unable to enter Khozat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 325.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 1046.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo respecting the murder of Padre Salvatore at Yenidjé-Kalé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Aleppo, December 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the "Binbashi" Mazhar Bey, who was charged with the murder of Padre Salvatore, at Yenidjé-Kalé, in November 1895, "after the systematical Turkish tergiversations," has finally been sent last week to Marash, where he will be tried by a court-martial. The French Consul has also sent to Marash his Chancelier, M. Guys, to watch the proceedings, and it is said that the Italian Consul will do the same.

Considering the ill-will manifested in all this affair by the Turkish authorities, I should not be surprised if Mazhar Bey will be sentenced to only a few months' imprisonment, and perhaps "on le fera entrer par la porte pour le sortir par la fenêtre."

From the information I have lately gathered on the antecedents of the present Mutessarif of Marash, Salih Pasha, it would appear that this functionary during his stay at Scutari as "Mektubdji," and afterwards as "Mustashar" of the Vali Abdoullah Pasha, had repeatedly furnished evident proofs of his anti-Christian feelings. His behaviour in the recent arrest of Mr. Macallum and the difficulties that he makes, almost daily, to the Protestant community of Marash, corroborating in some measure the above statement, it would be desirable that he should be removed from such an important post, which comprises in its jurisdiction the whole district of Zeitoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 326.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 1047.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 15, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Acting Consul Richards at Angora, reporting the arrival of Hauran Druses from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 118.)
Sir, *Angora, December 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that some 360 Druses—men, women, and children—of the Hauran arrived here from Constantinople on the evening of the 5th instant. It would appear that these people, who were brought here under military escort, are exiles, and it is very noticeable how large a percentage of the men are old. It is not yet known what will be done with these unfortunate creatures, who evidently feel the cold intensely, but it is to be hoped that prompt and adequate measures will be taken to settle them, as the winter has already set in with considerable severity.

It certainly is a most extraordinary thing that, whether they be immigrants or exiles, Angora appears to have become of late a place of refuge for all the Moslem refuse of neighbouring countries; Kurds and Circassians, Druses and Tartars, they all come here, and generally to stay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 327.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1049.) *Pera, December* 15, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 886 of the 28th October, respecting the trial and sentence of Apik Effendi Oundjian, I have the honour to report that on the 9th instant the Council of Ministers addressed a Mazbata to the Sultan, advising that Apik be released on the ground that further confinement might endanger his life.

The Sultan gave orders in accordance with this advice, and Apik Effendi was released on the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 328.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1051.) *Constantinople, December* 15, 1896.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 970 of the 21st November, respecting the condemnation of the Bishop of Bitlis, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a communication received from the Sublime Porte in reply to the representations made by Her Majesty's Embassy, as reported in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have since addressed to the Sublime Porte a further *pro-memorid*, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, protesting against the injustice of the sentence, and urging that it should be commuted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 328.

Memorandum from the Sublime Porte.

LE Département Impérial de la Justice, interpellé à propos des poursuites judiciaires intentées contre le nommé Agop, fils d'Artin, de Van, Vicaire de l'Évêque Arménien de Bitlis, mentionné dans le *pro-memorid* de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique en date du 5 de ce mois (v. s.) répond que cet individu, qui comptait parmi les chefs des Comités Révolutionnaires Arméniens, s'était livré à des insinuations et menées séditieuses pour surexciter les esprits de ses coreligionnaires, et les pousser à la révolte afin de soustraire une partie de l'Empire à l'autorité Ottomane. Ce fait ayant été établi à la suite du jugement du susdit Agop devant la Cour d'Appel de Bitlis, il avait été condamné à la peine capitale.

L'arrêt y relatif vient d'être confirmé par la Cour de Cassation.

Inclosure 2 in No. 328.

Pro-memorid.

HER Majesty's Embassy feel it their duty to bring the following facts to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

The Armenian Bishop of Bitlis, at present lying under sentence of death for seditious practices, would seem to be the victim of a groundless charge. He arrived in Bitlis on the 1st October, 1895, and only delivered two sermons before the massacre: one on the day of his arrival and one on the 20th October, five days before the massacre. It was in June last that he was arrested on the charge of having incited the Armenians to revolt, eight months previously, and on refusing to answer to this astounding charge, was condemned to death. So far from having incited the Armenians to attack the Mussulmans,

the Bishop, accompanied by several Notables, called on the Governor the day before the massacre, and drew his attention to the threatening attitude of the Mussulmans. He then, relying on the assurances which the Governor gave him, encouraged his people to open their shops on the day of the massacre. Witnesses in whose credibility Her Majesty's Embassy have all confidence attest that the Bishop is entirely innocent of any complicity in seditious movements, and a deplorable effect will be produced abroad unless the sentence passed on him on this utterly groundless charge is quashed.

December 4, 1896.

No. 329.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1052.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the activity of the Armenian revolutionary party in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 329.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 122.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 8, 1896.

THE Vali of Erzeroum to-day furnished me with the following particulars as to recent manifestations of activity on the part of the Armenian revolutionary party in this district.

About ten days ago an encounter took place between a small cavalry patrol and a band of twenty-two armed Armenians near the village of Karakillisseh, between Passin and Alashgerd. One of the Armenians was killed and the rest took to the mountains, where the cavalry were unable to follow them. This band is supposed to have consisted of some villagers of Passin, who had been joined by a few Armenian outlaws from beyond the frontier, and an Armenian informer has come forward and communicated to the authorities the names of some of the villagers engaged, according to him, in this affair, whose arrest is confidently anticipated by the Vali.

A few days ago, in consequence of the information obtained from some of the prisoners referred to in my preceding despatch (fifteen of whom have been committed for trial), an Armenian named Roupen was arrested at one of the gates of Erzeroum on his arrival from Erzingian. After he had at first denied his identity he was confronted with two of the prisoners, when, according to Raouf Pasha, he admitted that he was indeed an agitator, but protested that he was only an agent of the "Armenist" Society, whose object was merely to draw the attention of Europe to the sufferings of the Armenians, and that he did not belong to any active revolutionary organization. However, the Vali declares that the authorities are in possession of important evidence showing that he is really a dangerous revolutionary, and his Excellency seems to be much elated at his capture.

My own impression is that, although the Armenian population in general remains in a state of passive disaffection, as a natural result of long-standing misgovernment and recent persecution, there is very little active sympathy with the few revolutionary agents who from time to time obtain a footing here. The fact that such persons do exist no doubt justifies the maintenance of severe repressive measures, and one can only applaud the Vali's vigilance and activity in following them up. But an impartial observer can rarely feel fully satisfied of the justice of the convictions which are so readily obtained, in view of the tainted character of the evidence which is usually forthcoming, and of the manifest bias of the Courts of Justice, while the effect of the frequent miscarriages of justice on the Armenians at

large is only to keep the spirit of disaffection alive, and make them inclined to regard all political prisoners alike as martyrs and victims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 330.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1055.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that the following appointments of Muavins to Valis appeared in the Turkish "Official Gazette" of the 15th instant:—

Adrianople.—Todoraki Effendi, Member of the Council of State.
Sivas.—Ikiadis Effendi, ex-Consul at New York.
Beirout.—Dimitrakopoulo Effendi, Director of the Régie at Augora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 331.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1056.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 7, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1025 of the 9th December on the question of the emigration of Armenian orphans into foreign countries, and of the establishment of orphanages at various places within the Ottoman Empire, I have the honour to inform you that, at a meeting of the Ambassadors, all my colleagues agreed to urge the Turkish Government to give facilities for these charitable works, and to grant permission, on the application of a Consulate, for the departure from the country of such orphans.

Mr. Block, on my behalf, spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and urged his Excellency to submit the question to the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 332.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 11, 1896.

I HAD the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph that M. de Nélidoff left for Constantinople to-day to resume his official duties.

He called on me yesterday, on his return from Tsarskoe Selo, and said that the Emperor had told him to warn the Sultan very seriously that if he did not agree to such reforms as the Ambassadors recommended, recourse to coercive measures would be inevitable.

He was also to tell the Sultan that if he tampered in any way with the present Agreement respecting the Public Debt, or appropriated any of the revenue allotted to the foreign bondholders, the Powers would be obliged to fall back upon the proposal contained in the 18th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and appoint an International Financial Commission for the supervision of at least a considerable part of the revenue of the State.

In talking to the German Ambassador respecting this latter point, M. de Nélidoff said that the scheme would only extend to a portion of the public revenue, and that it would be of a temporary nature, but he thought the language he was instructed to

hold to the Sultan would have a good effect, and remove any hope His Majesty still entertained of a complete want of harmony between the Powers.

M. de Nélidoff said that he would stay a couple of days at Vienna, and hoped to reach Constantinople within a week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 333.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 1059.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus and the Acting Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the Druse prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 333.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 1, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that, including the 250 Druses whom I reported as being sent into exile, 1,000 prisoners in all have been sent from here, 50 women being of the number. Their destinations are Tripoli of Barbary, Konia, and Kaisarieh. Any women who desire to follow their husbands are permitted to accompany them.

Many Druses have been murdered in cold blood in the villages by the Turkish soldiery and by the Bedouins. These acts were not, it is said, done by order of the Mushir, but he must have connived at them.

There is still a large number of Druses in the Ledja who wisely refuse to surrender.

The Commission is engaged in making the census.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 333.

Acting Consul-General Jones to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 73.)
Sir, *Beirout, December* 5, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to report that 190 Druse prisoners taken in the recent campaign in the Hauran were shipped on the 27th ultimo on board a vessel bound for Ismidt, the exiles being in most cases accompanied by their wives.

It is reported that a further contingent of Druse prisoners is expected shortly from Damascus for shipment to another port, the object being to disperse the exiles in different provinces of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 334.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 280.) *St. Petersburgh, December 16, 1896.*

My Lord,

I SAW M. Chichkine this afternoon, and read to him your Lordship's despatch No. 302 of the 25th ultimo, recording a conversation with M. de Staal respecting the exchange of views between the two Governments as to the employment of coercive measures in Turkey.

M. Chichkine said that M. de Staal had already informed him of the substance of your Lordship's despatch. He proceeded to say that the Emperor had instructed M. de Nélidoff to warn the Sultan that coercive measures would be employed if he refused the recommendations of the Ambassadors, and to let His Majesty clearly understand that these measures would probably be attended by the most serious consequences. In fact, M. Chichkine confirmed what M. de Nélidoff had said to me a few days ago, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 278 of the 11th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 335.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 388. Confidential.) *Berlin, December 18, 1896.*

My Lord,

COUNT MONTEBELLO, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who passed through Berlin on the 16th instant on his way to his post, was good enough to pay me a short visit on that day. He said that M. Chichkine had shown but little skill in dealing with the question of Turkish reform. At first he had given Mr. Goschen, and, subsequently, Sir N. O'Conor, to understand that the Russian Government were opposed to the employment of measures of coercion. He then took up the French proposal, which, as long as he believed it was likely to be adopted, he alluded to as the proposal of the Russian Government. When he found that M. Witte's opposition to this proposal would prevent its acceptance, he gave out that it to be understood that the Russian Government accept your Lordship's proposals. These various statements could not fail to create an impression of vacillation on the part of the Russian Government, and were not strictly accurate. Your Lordship's proposals had not been definitively accepted, nor had the French proposal been definitively rejected. There were obvious objections to the latter, but he (Count Montebello) still believed that it, or something analogous to it, would afford the best solution of the question. If the Turkish Empire were to be kept upon its legs it was absolutely necessary that it should be able to find money, without which it would be impossible not only to introduce reforms, but even to carry on the Administration. It was believed in France that the presence of a Russian on the Commission of the Debt would create sufficient confidence to enable Turkey to raise a loan, but as the Russian Government objected to this, it would now be necessary to devise some other plan.

I thanked Count Montebello for the information he had given me, and observed that the fact that your Lordship had reserved to Her Majesty's Government the right of again raising the question of coercion, if it became necessary to do so, was a proof that you did not consider that your proposals had been fully accepted.

Want of time prevented me from prolonging this conversation, which produced upon my mind the impression that Count Montebello regarded the question almost entirely from the point of view of the French bondholders, and did not pay sufficient attention to political considerations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 336.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Milbanke.

(No. 160.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 21, 1896.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office to-day, and stated that he was instructed to inform me that his Government agreed in principle to the proposals made in my despatch No. 123 of the 20th October to Sir E. Monson for joint action of the Powers, with a view to remedy the threatening state of affairs in Turkey.

Count Deym reminded me that Count Goluchowski had always been of opinion that joint action by the Powers at Constantinople was the only method of averting the dangers which threatened the Ottoman Empire, and consequently the peace of Europe, in consequence of the disorder prevailing in the internal administration of Turkey.

Count Goluchowski had also always been of opinion that the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople should be instructed to consult together upon the measures of reform which they considered best adapted to bring about a normal state of things in the Ottoman Empire. They should report the result of their deliberations to their respective Governments, who should then, by collective pressure, induce the Porte, in its own interest, to carry out these measures of reform.

Count Goluchowski had great pleasure in signifying his complete concurrence in my view that, as a preliminary to any joint representations which the Powers might decide to make to the Porte for the improvement of the Turkish Administration, they should be agreed in principle to insist firmly on the execution of the reforms proposed, and even, if necessary, to make use of all the means of pressure which were at their disposal.

As to the details of the measures to be adopted, Count Goluchowski considered that they might be discussed at a later period. But it appeared to him indispensable that, when submitting to the Sultan the proposals which they consider necessary for the preservation of his Empire, the Powers should have determined conjointly to enforce their decision.

The Austro-Hungarian Government were convinced that there was no prospect of any action of the Powers being successful that did not proceed on this basis, and Count Goluchowski was of opinion that, without an agreement in principle as to the eventual employment of coercion in case of need, all attempts to improve the existing state of Turkey would fail. He would hesitate to join in collective representations which probably would not attain their object, and which might weaken the authority of the Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 337.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer, comme suite à ses précédentes notes, les renseignements suivants relatifs aux réformes exécutés en Anatolie :—

Vilayet de Mamouret-ul-Aziz.—Des agents de police et receveurs de finances Chrétiens ont été nommés proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane. Ils sont déjà entrés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Des soixante-douze Chrétiens qui doivent, d'après les dispositions de l'Article 2 du plan, être nommés à des postes administratifs, les trente-huit sont déjà en fonctions et les autres le seront au fur et à mesure des vacances. Soixante-douze gendarmes Chrétiens ont été déjà recrutés et l'engagement continue. Les districts du vilayet ont été divisés en soixante-quatre nahiés où les élections ont déjà commencé.

Vilayet de Bitlis.—Des Mouavins Chrétiens ont éte nommés auprès des Moudirs des Nahiés de Hayout, Bettel, Ziret, Aktchan, Siz, et Redvan conformément aux disposi-

tions de l'Article 8 du plan de réformes. Vingt-sept gendarmes Chrétiens ont été encore recrutés, et trente gardes champêtres non-Musulmans désignés. Un receveur de finances Chrétien ayant été également nommé, le chiffre requis se trouve complété.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 21 Décembre, 1896.

No. 338.

Nil.

No. 339.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 22.)

(No. 50. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December* 22, 1896, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to telegram No. 116 from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna. The language recently held by Count Wolkenstein and reported in my despatch No. 395, Secret, of the 17th instant, is, in my opinion, entirely to be attributed to the ignorance in which the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves him. He complained to me of this again yesterday. Situated as he is, he can hardly avoid allowing his views to be influenced by his German colleague.

I have repeated this telegram to Vienna.

No. 340.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—*Received December* 22.)

(No. 402.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 22, 1896, 6 P.M.

ALL Armenians condemned for political offences are to be released, the Iradé for the amnesty having been issued to-day. Exception is made of those condemned to death. These, who amount to eighty-four in number, will be imprisoned in a fortress and released gradually.

The Bishop of Bitlis, together with another Bishop, will be temporarily sent to Jerusalem.

No. 341.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 1062.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1000 of the 2nd December, inclosing a report received from Mr. Vice-Consul Fontana respecting the massacre at Eghin, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a *pro-memorid* which I have presented to the Sublime Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 341.

Pro-memorid.

LA Sublime Porte n'ignore sans doute pas les détails du massacre survenu à Eghin pendant le mois de Septembre écoulé. D'après les renseignements dignes de foi qu'a pu recueillir l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté, Hakki Effendi Erkki Zadé, faisant fonctions de Caïmacan à Eghin, aurait joué dans ces tristes événements un rôle important. C'est lui qui dix jours avant le massacre a fait appeler plusieurs des Notables Arméniens et les a sommés de livrer des prétendus révolutionnaires qui, selon le Caïmacan se trouvaient à Eghin. Ceux-ci ont répondu qu'ils ignoraient la présence de ces révolutionnaires. Quelques jours plus tard la Municipalité a fait faire par des ouvriers Chrétiens une centaine de haches en prétendant que le service des pompiers en avait besoin. Le 14 Septembre un grand nombre de Kurdes est arrivé dans les faubourgs d'Eghin et le Caïmacan *ad interim*, accompagné du Colonel, s'est rendu à leur rencontre. Le 15 les individus se sont livrés à l'assaut de la ville. Le massacre a duré jusqu'au 17 Septembre, et chaque soir la liste des victimes était remise au Gouvernement qui alors faisait rechercher le lendemain ceux dont les noms ne s'y trouvaient pas.

Les Arméniens n'ont donné aucune provocation pour ces événements, dont la responsabilité pèse sur les quatre personnes suivantes: Hakki Bey, le Caïmacan *ad interim*; le Colonel, Kara Bey; le Maire, et Sehlik Zadé Hafiz Effendi, membre du Conseil Exécutif. Il est établi effectivement—

1. Que ces individus se sont concertés avec les chefs Kurdes avant l'attaque.

2. Que les haches dont on s'est servi pour fracturer les portes ont été fournies par la Municipalité.

3. Qu'un télégramme envoyé par les autorités locales jettant la responsabilité du massacre sur les Arméniens a été publié dans des journaux étrangers pendant que le massacre continuait encore; ce fait prouve que le télégramme a été envoyé avant le commencement du massacre et les assertions qu'il contient sont dénuées de tout fondement.

4. Plusieurs Arméniens qui ont pu échapper au meurtre ont été ensuite appelés par le Procureur qui les a forcés de signer une fausse déclaration accusant quelques Notables Arméniens qui avaient péri dans le massacre, d'avoir pris part à des menées séditieuses.

En vue de cette attitude du Caïmacan *ad interim*, Hakki Bey, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté croit devoir protester contre l'emploi de ce fonctionnaire dans aucun poste officiel, et exprime en même temps l'espoir qu'il recevra le châtiment qu'il mérite.

No. 342.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 403. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 23, 1896, 11·25 A.M.

A MEETING of Ambassadors was held yesterday to discuss questions of Turkish reform, and M. de Nélidow proposed that we should insist on the execution of reforms in the European provinces according to the "Law for the European provinces" elaborated in 1880 by International Commission. He proposed that the execution of this Law should be supervised by a European Commission. Subsequently, a similar Commission, he said, might be sent to Anatolia to superintend the execution of the 1895 reform scheme.

During the discussion which followed, the reform of the Tribunals, the finance, the police, and control over the appointments of officials were among the points mentioned as urgently needed, and the Austrian Ambassador gave it as his opinion that reform was more necessary in the capital than in the provinces; but M. de Nélidow said he thought we should do better in taking up one thing at a time: first, press the question of reform in the European provinces, and then the other points could be dealt with in order.

His object appears to be to get the Macedonian question settled, keeping his hands free as to any ulterior measures; consequently, when I said that I was ready to discuss his proposal, but it must be understood that it would only form one of the

points which we should discuss, and that we should also lay before our Governments a general view of the situation and the measures necessary to ameliorate it, he did not seem pleased with my observations.

M. Cambon offered no remarks on the proposal, and the Austrian, German, and Italian Ambassadors, while expressing no decided opinion, were inclined to favour my view.

I think M. de Nélidow's proposal is good as far as it goes, but if our object is to prevent the repetition of atrocities and to restrain the arbitrary power of the Sultan, more far-reaching measures will be necessary.

I hear from Turkish sources that M. de Nélidow's language to the Sultan was not so severe as he had given us to understand, and that, since the audience, His Majesty has been quite reassured.

No. 343.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 494. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 23, 1896, 12·45 P.M.

AT Ambassadors' meeting yesterday the Italian Ambassador read his instructions, which were much the same as those of M. de Nélidow, with the addition that the best way to render coercion unnecessary would be to let the Sultan know beforehand that the Powers did not exclude the possibility of its employment.

M. Cambon also communicated the following instructions from his Government:—

"You should insist on the execution not only of the reforms promised you by the Sultan, but of such others as may be necessary, provided the three following conditions are observed:—

"1. That the Ottoman Empire is maintained.

"2. That no Resolution is adopted tending to establish a condominium.

"3. That isolated action is avoided.

"In case the Sultan should refuse his consent, the means of coercion will be examined."

I read my instructions.

It was agreed that our deliberations should be kept secret.

We meet again to-morrow.

No. 344.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 495.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 23, 1896, 11 A.M.

THE amnesty to which I referred in my telegram No. 492 was published to-day. Armenians under sentence of death will not benefit by it, nor will "instigators of sedition." The latter are said to be about twenty in number. It includes, however, Mahommedans who have been imprisoned for participation in the disturbances, that is to say, the 200 prisoners who, according to the *note verbale* of the Sublime Porte of the 9th September, were to be punished with all the rigour of the law.

No. 345.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 23, 1896.

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI has not derived any encouragement from the proceedings at the first two meetings of the Ambassadors, and appears to agree with Sir P. Currie's opinion that there are much more pressing matters than the subject of the Russian Ambassador's proposal at the second sitting, and that the latter should not be discussed to the exclusion of the former.

The present vague deliberations of the Ambassadors inspire his Excellency with but little confidence, owing to their want of any real basis.

Without some definite points being settled to form the basis of discussion, he feels that little or nothing will be obtained. Your Lordship's Circular of the 20th October left his Excellency under the impression that you would bring forward some distinct proposals for reforms in Turkey.

The prospect, as matters stand at present, appears to have greatly discouraged his Excellency.

No. 346.

Baron de Courcel to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

M. le Marquis, *Ambassade de France, Londres, le* 23 *Décembre*, 1896.

A LA suite de ma conversation d'avant-hier avec votre Seigneurie, je crois utile de vous adresser, ci-après, un résumé des instructions qui ont été transmises, le 15 de ce mois, à l'Ambassadeur de France à Constantinople, et qui ont fait l'objet de notre entretien. Elles avaient fait déjà, comme vous le savez, l'objet d'une conversation que M. Hanotaux a eue, le 16 Décembre, avec Sir Edmund Monson.

M. Cambon a été invité à se concerter avec ses collègues afin d'assurer la réalisation prompte et complète des réformes promises et nécessaires. Il a été prescrit notamment à l'Ambassadeur de France de tenir au Sultan le langage qui, de commun accord entre ses collègues et lui, sera jugé le plus propre à donner à Sa Majesté le sentiment exact des graves conséquences auxquelles elle s'exposerait si elle ne tenait pas compte du vœu unanime des Puissances et si elle rendait ainsi inévitable une intervention de l'Europe.

M. Hanotaux a expressément indiqué à M. Cambon que, dans l'opinion du Gouvernement Français, la condition préalable de l'action commune des Puissances était une entente sur les trois points suivants:—

1. L'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman sera maintenue.
2. Il n'y aura d'action isolée sur aucun point.
3. Il ne sera pas établi de condominium.

Le Gouvernement Français est, en outre, d'avis que les réformes devront s'appliquer, sans distinction de race ni de religion, à toutes les populations de l'Empire Ottoman.

Pour ce qui concerne la question des mesures de coercition, le Gouvernement Français ne se refuserait pas à les examiner, le moment venu, si les Puissances étaient unanimes à en reconnaître la nécessité absolue.

Tel est, M. le Marquis, ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le faire connaître de vive voix, le sens exact des instructions dont est muni l'Ambassadeur de France à Constantinople. J'ai constaté avec satisfaction, d'après ce que vous avez bien voulu me dire, que notre accord était complet sur tous les points visés dans ces instructions. Je serais très reconnaissant à votre Seigneurie de vouloir bien confirmer mon impression à cet égard, si elle considère qu'elle soit justifiée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ALPH. DE COURCEL.

No. 347.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 199, Count Goluchowski told me yesterday, in reply to my inquiry, that as there were at the present moment no definite proposals on which to base further instructions to Baron Calice, he saw no object in sending any.

No. 348.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Monson.

(No. 533.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 24, 1896.*

THE French Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on the 18th instant, and was received in my absence by Sir Thomas Sanderson.

Baron de Courcel stated that M. Hanotaux had sent instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople for his guidance in the discussions which were to take place between the Ambassadors at that capital respecting the measures of reform to be proposed to the Sultan.

M. Cambon was directed to join with his colleagues in impressing upon the Sultan the importance of acceding to the recommendations which might be made by the Powers, and the serious consequences which would result from a contrary course.

In discussing the measures to be recommended, M. Cambon was instructed to bear in mind three points to which the French Government attached special importance. These were (1) the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire; (2) that there should be no isolated action by any one Power; and (3) that there should be no condominium.

The French Government were of opinion that the reforms should be applicable to all the populations subject to the Sultan without distinction of race or creed.

These instructions were read to me by Baron de Courcel on the 21st instant, and received my general concurrence; and he stated to me that they had also been read to your Excellency by M. Hanotaux, and that, in reply to an inquiry made by you, M. Hanotaux had further stated that the French Government would not refuse to examine the methods of coercion to be employed with a view to obtain the reform of the Administration of Turkey, if all the Powers were agreed that resort to such measures was absolutely indispensable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 349.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 497. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 25, 1896, 12·35 P.M.*

BARON CALICE pointed out, at a meeting of Ambassadors yesterday, the following objections to the execution of the Law of 1880, as proposed by M. de Nélidow:—

1. It might lead to a rising of the Balkan populations.
2. It would tend to the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire.
3. It could not be carried out without local coercion, which would cause disturbances in the neighbourhood of Austria. He wished to have time to examine the question from all points of view before he discussed it.

I urged that if a European Commission were sent to Macedonia, the simultaneous appointment of one for Anatolia was essential.

The Ambassadors generally considered that questions affecting the Central Government should be discussed before those which only concerned the provincial Administration.

The French and Russian Ambassadors, after some discussion, agreed on the proposal of the former that our next meeting should have a more formal character, and that a list of existing abuses should be drawn up which should be considered in turn, and for which remedies should be sought.

[For remainder of telegram see despatch No. 8 of the 6th January, 1897.]

No. 350.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 499.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 25, 1896, 12·45 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has presented a *pro-memorid* to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he states in the most categorical manner and in the name of the Emperor that, if the Sultan does not give immediate effect to the friendly recommendations which may be made to him in his own interests for the maintenance of order and for the improvement of the Administration in Turkey, and for securing to Europe the blessings of peace, he will expose himself to the gravest dangers, even to the risk of foreign intervention.

No. 351.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 398.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 26, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1051 of the 15th instant relative to the sentence of death passed on the Bishop of Bitlis.

I approve the terms of the *pro-memorid* which you addressed to the Porte on the subject on the 4th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 352.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 500.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 27, 1896, 12·35 P.M.*

MY refusal to receive a message from the Sultan's First Secretary resulted in a visit yesterday evening from Tewfik Pasha, who brought a message from His Majesty as to the various measures of reform which had been taken during the last few days.

He was instructed by the Sultan to tell me that His Majesty now recognized that England was his best friend, and intended in future implicitly to follow my advice. I replied that Her Majesty's Government were now acting in complete accord with the other Powers; that I could not separate myself from my colleagues; and I was therefore unable to offer His Majesty any advice.

Izzet Bey made a similar communication to the French Ambassador on the previous day, and offered that the Sultan, in return for the good offices of France, would be entirely guided by the advice of the French Embassy.

No. 353.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 501. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 27, 1896, 12·35 P.M.*

YESTERDAY there was a meeting of Ambassadors. As agreed, we had each prepared a list of the most crying evils. All concurred, with some variation in points of detail, in considering the interference of the Palace as the worst feature of the situation. We shall enter on the consideration of the remedies to be proposed on Tuesday next. In the meanwhile, the Austrian and Italian Ambassadors have undertaken to prepare a Memorandum embodying all the points mentioned at the meeting.

No. 354.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 119. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 27, 1896.*

I AM informed by Count Goluchowski that M. Nélidow's present intention is to allow his proposal, based on the law of 1880, to drop. In any case, this proposal would always require serious consideration, and can be judged better by Baron Calice on the spot than by Count Goluchowski himself.

Great stress is laid by his Excellency on the necessity of observing secrecy by which a great impression has already been created at Yildiz; the proposed breaking off of irregular communications with the Sultan will, in his opinion, also have a good result, though, as long as the present Ministry is in power, little can be expected.

As regards the categorical language used by the Russian Ambassador to the Sultan, Count Goluchowski told M. Nélidow, when he saw him not long ago, that while gratified at the tenor of his Excellency's instructions, it must be remembered that such language must be held not by Russia alone, but by all the Powers, an observation with which M. Nélidow did not appear altogether pleased.

No. 355.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 404. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 19, 1896.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW'S short visit to Vienna, where he only remained two days before continuing his journey to Constantinople, gave rise, as was only to be expected, to all kinds of speculations in the public press, but, as far as I have been able to ascertain in the course of a conversation which I had two days ago with Count Goluchowski, the Ambassador was not charged with any particular message to the Austrian Government, and indeed his Excellency seems to have elicited but little additional information in regard to the intentions of the Russian Government respecting the action to be taken by the Powers at Constantinople.

M. de Nélidow, Count Goluchowski informed me, was returning to Constantinople with instructions to speak very seriously to the Sultan upon the consequences to which His Majesty would expose himself by continuing to disregard the wishes of the Powers, but beyond the authority to concert with the other Ambassadors, he did not appear to have received any special instructions. His Excellency went on to say that he had explained to the Ambassador his own point of view in the same terms as Count Deym had been instructed to speak to your Lordship; and he added that he presumed your Lordship was waiting to receive replies from all the Powers to the Circular of the 20th October before formulating more precisely the reforms which it was intended to discuss at Constantinople.

In the further course of our conversation, Count Goluchowski told me that he had noted with satisfaction that M. de Nélidow seemed fully to realize that it was as impossible for Russia to act without the other Powers as it was for the Powers to do so without Russia, thus showing that too much credit should not be given to recent articles of the press of St. Petersburgh which had advocated independent action of Russia, and which evidently produced considerable impression here, as the semi-official journals at Vienna and Pesth have latterly been at pains to minimize the power of Russian influence in Turkey, and have laid stress on the point that no arrangement that may be come to would be effectual without the support and consent of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

M. de Nélidow has, as your Lordship is aware, never been very favourably judged in this country, and once certainly, if not twice, objections were made by the Imperial Government to his appointment as Russian Ambassador at the Court of Vienna.

On the present occasion, I understand that his Excellency has not produced an unfavourable impression, but although Count Goluchowski told me that he had expressed his satisfaction to the Ambassador at the new departure of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh in recognizing in principle the necessity of the eventual employment

of material pressure at Constantinople, it is very evident to me that but little reliance is placed here in the assurances of the Russian Government, and that there is but a faint hope that the coming negotiations will be attended with any successful results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 356.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 405. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 21, 1896.*

IN the course of my conversation with Count Goluchowski, reported in my despatch No. 404, Confidential, of the 19th instant, I alluded to reports which had appeared in the public journals, to the effect that some arrangement had after all been come to between the Governments of Russia and France on the subject of the introduction of financial reforms in Turkey.

His Excellency replied that, so far as he knew, these reports were devoid of foundation, and went on to remark that the position of Russia in regard to the financial question was one of considerable difficulty, for while the Russian Government were opposed to any real control over the financial administration of Turkey, and had no bondholders whose interests it was necessary to defend, it was, on the other hand, difficult for them altogether to disregard the wishes of the French, whose financial interests at Constantinople were of such magnitude.

For himself, Count Goluchowski continued, he considered the financial question as one of the first importance, as without some regulation of the finances of Turkey no real amelioration in the general administration could be expected; but by reforms in the question of finance he meant a thorough settlement of the financial position of the Ottoman Empire, and not an arrangement the object of which would be merely to serve the interests of foreign bondholders.

His Excellency concluded by saying that he had heard there was an idea of reverting to a proposal made by Count Corti at the Congress of Berlin, to the effect that a Commissioner should be appointed by each of the Great Powers at Constantinople to safeguard the interests of holders of Turkish bonds. These duties were, however, now performed by the Public Debt Commission, and he therefore failed to see what advantage would be gained by the appointment of official Commissioners to act in the place of, or in addition to, the representatives of the bondholders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 357.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1065.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 21, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Terrell, United States' Minister in Constantinople, expressing his appreciation of Mr. Fontana's services to naturalized American citizens at Kharput. I have also transmitted a copy to Mr. Fontana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Mr. Terrell to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *United States' Legation, December 17, 1896.*

I DESIRE to express to you my high appreciation of the services rendered to naturalized American citizens and their kindred at Kharput by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul Fontana.

His readiness to afford all needful aid to native Americans at Kharput, has been referred to by the Rev. H. N. Barnum, and for this also he is entitled to my thanks.

In due time Consul Fontana will be informed through your Excellency of the high estimate placed on Mr. Fontana's courtesy by the United States' Secretary of State.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. W. TERRELL.

No. 358.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1066.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 21, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1012 of the 3rd December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora reporting on the Military Aid Fund and the Reform Committee in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 126.)
Sir, *Angora, December 16, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 116 of the 20th ultimo, reporting the formation here of two Commissions: one for the supervision of the execution of reforms and the other for the collecting of subscriptions in aid of the Military Fund, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the religious Heads of the Armeno-Catholic, Armeno-Protestant, and Greek communities here have undertaken to superintend the raising of a subscription for the purpose above indicated, each among the members of his own flock. They were summoned, it seems, to the Government House, and informed by the Muavin—the Vali being absent through illness—that the Christians are in nowise obliged to contribute to this fund, but they replied that they considered it to be their duty to do so, and to persuade all those who looked to them for guidance to follow their example. For their conduct in this matter the Bishops have been thanked by the Vali on the behalf of Mahmoud Jelaleddin Pasha, the President of the Central Committee.

I am given to understand, however, that the sums which they expect to raise are of modest dimensions, £ T. 150 being put down as the maximum amount to be contributed by the Armeno-Catholics (by far the most numerous and the most wealthy Christian community here), £ T. 100 by the Greeks, and still less (no figures obtainable so far) by the Armenians and Armeno-Protestants who are in a very considerable minority in comparison with the other two.

It would appear, moreover, that many persons object to their Bishop dictating to them how much they should give in a cause which they cannot by any possibility be expected to have at heart. Even among the Moslems, who are obliged to subscribe, a fixed sum being demanded of each according to his means, there is not a little grumbling as to the injustice of the whole thing.

As regards the Reform Committee, it does not appear that any action has been taken so far, but I hear that they have received several applications from Christians desirous of finding employment in the lower branches of the civil administration, none of whom have, I believe, been successful as yet.

I am sorry to say that the applicants would appear to consider the present rather as a grand opportunity for filling their pockets at the expense of the public than as a first step in a series of reforms from which so much benefit, both material and moral, is expected to accrue to a ruined country and its wretched inhabitants. One instance in particular has been brought to my notice in which a Greek doctor, who though in the possession of a (relatively speaking) flourishing practice has openly spoken of his intention of applying for the post of Muavin to a Turkish

Mutessarif, on the ground that however short his tenure of office might be, he would have time enough to make a very satisfactory provision for his old age. And these are the men who are to inaugurate reforms! It is a very saddening reflection that there are many Christians in this country, who, if they had the same opportunities, would prove themselves to be as bad as the most corrupt Turkish Administrators under the present régime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—The Armeno-Protestant pastor informs me that he was not summoned to the konak by the Muavin at the same time as the other religious Heads. Had he been present on that occasion, and, like the others, received the assurance that Christians are not obliged to contribute to the Military Fund, he would now, he says, on the strength of that statement, refuse to use his influence with the members of his community to persuade them to subscribe; but as matters stand, he is, he declares, being carried away by the torrent which he is afraid to resist alone and unaided.

W. S. R.

No. 359.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1067.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 21, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting on the appointment of a Commission for the supervision of reforms, and the character of its members.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Damascus, December 7, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that a Commission for the execution of reforms has been formed in this vilayet.

The Commission consists of the Vali (Hassan Pasha), as President, the Cadi, the Defterdar, the Mektubdji, the Commandant of the Gendarmerie, the Mudir of Police, the President of the Criminal Court, the President of the Civil Court of First Instance, and the President of the Commercial Court.

The Vali is, as far as I have been able to learn his character, a fairly honest, well-meaning man, but notorious for his lack of intelligence. The Cadi is corrupt to a degree, and the Defterdar is equally so. The Mektubdji has not yet reached Damascus, and is an unknown quantity. The Commandant of the Gendarmerie, Khupreo Pasha, is already known to your Excellency, having formerly been in the same post in the Vilayet of Sivas; he is totally illiterate and perfectly unscrupulous. The Mudir of Police is corrupt and utterly unprincipled. The President of the Criminal Court is also hopelessly corrupt. The only two men of decent character in the Commission, with the exception of the Vali, are the two last, Feizullah Effendi and Husni Bey, who are honest, straightforward, capable men.

It is evident that no good can be expected to result from a Commission composed of such men as the above, and some of the Turkish officials freely express their opinion that it is ridiculous to suppose that, even if carried out, the reforms will be anything but a dead letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 360.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1068.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 21, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting the reappointment as Kaïmakam of Moussa Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Trebizond, December 10, 1896.*

IN my despatches of last year I had frequently occasion to refer to Moussa Pasha, a corrupt and illiterate Circassian, who, through some influence at the Palace, obtained for himself the Kaïmakamlik of Charshamba.

It was only through the reiterated complaints of the Vali that he was, in June 1895, recalled from a post which he had filled since November 1891.

I have now to report that he has lately been named to Baïra, a district in this vilayet, on the payment, it is said, of some 500*l.* for the appointment; while his predecessor there, Bederkhan-Pashazadeh, Kiamil Bey, an official who has the reputation of being honest, able, and popular, has been transferred, against his will, to Ak-Dagh Maden, in the Angora Vilayet.

It is needless to remark that so long as such abuses are allowed to occur in the selection of Governors no administrative system, however perfect, can be confided on as efficaciously operative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 361.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1069. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 22, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1058 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout reporting on alleged charges against the late Governor-General of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 77. Confidential.)
Sir, *Beirout, December 15, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Jones' despatch No. 74 of the 7th instant, reporting the recall of Messouhi Bey, late Governor-General of this vilayet, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that he was accused:—

1. Of belonging to the Young Turkey party;
2. Of allowing 5,900 Armenians to enter the vilayet;
2. Of importing and distributing fire-arms amongst the Moslem population of Beirout for revolutionary purposes.

The Acting Governor-General having received instructions to investigate these charges has, I am informed, reported that they are all devoid of foundation.

Messouhi Bey is undoubtedly a man of liberal views, but there are no reasons for questioning his loyalty and fidelity to his Sovereign and Government.

The number of Gregorian Armenians in Beirout does not exceed 100, and they chiefly belong to old resident families.

In the remainder of this vilayet, south of Lattakia, Armenians are very scarce.

With regard to the introduction of fire-arms, I am convinced that Messouhi Bey had no hand whatever in the matter, but he may have been indirectly to blame for the brisk contraband in such articles which had assumed important dimensions during the past year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 362.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1072.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 23, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter I have received from Mr. Gates, an American missionary resident at Kharput, and President of the Local Armenian Relief Committee, bearing testimony to the value of the services rendered by Mr. Fontana, in the capacity of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 362.

The Rev. C. A. Gates to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Kharput, December 9, 1896.*

I GLADLY avail myself of this opportunity to express to you our appreciation of Mr. Fontana's services. He never hesitates to put himself out, not only for us, but for any of the people whom he can serve. He thoroughly understands the situation of affairs in this vilayet, and, what is more, he is master of the situation. I greatly admire the way in which he works, and the influence which he has obtained over officials here.

His coming has been a great help to us, and of great value to the suffering people.

No. 363.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1074.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 23, 1896.*

AS fresh discussions are being opened with a view of ascertaining what reforms can be profitably introduced in Turkey, the moment seems suitable for inquiring what steps have been taken during the past year to execute the reforms sanctioned by Imperial Iradé on the 17th October, 1895.

Leaving out of the question the appointment of gardes champêtres, which has been entirely neglected, the most important provisions of this schedule of reforms fall under three headings: the nomination of Christian officials, the control of the Kurds, and an improved method of tax collecting.

As regards the first point, Christian Mouavins (assistants) to Valis have been appointed in all the Armenian vilayets, and in some others, such as Angora, Beirout, and the European provinces. They have also been named to three out of the twenty Mutessarifs and to four out of the eighty-nine Kaïmakams in the six Armenian vilayets.

Christian Kaïmakams have been appointed only at Zeitoun and Hajjin. As

regards the police and gendarmerie, a certain number of Christians have been appointed, and the local authorities have received instructions to raise the numbers to the proportionate amount. Financial straits, however, prevent them from paying any salary to those new officials, and it is consequently difficult to find candidates. The appointment of Christian assistants to Valis appears at first sight to be an important step, but, in practice, measures have been taken to deprive it of all value. The Mouavins elected seem to be in all cases of little personal energy and low official rank. When the Vali is at his post they are not allowed to take any part in the administration; and in order to prevent them from occupying his place when he is absent, a Regulation has been made that the functions of Acting Vali are to be discharged by the person of next highest personal rank, who is generally the Defterdar or representative of the Ministry of Finance.

No attempt to execute Article 27 of the Schedule of Reforms, respecting the control of the Kurds, seems to have been made except at Mush. Shakir Pasha and the Vali of Kharput have expressed the opinion that its execution is impossible. Article 28, respecting the Hamidié Cavalry has not fared much better. Major Bulman reports from Sivas that several privates have been dealt with by the ordinary Tribunals, but otherwise nothing has been done to bring this irregular soldiery under the ordinary civil jurisdiction, or to prevent them from carrying arms at all seasons.

With regard to the collection of taxes, it is reported that special officials are being appointed in most provinces, and that zaptiehs are no longer employed for this purpose, but, as Mr. Hallward remarks in a despatch which I have had the honour to forward to your Lordship, it does not make much difference to the rural population whether the taxes are collected by zaptiehs or by one civilian tax collector attended by ten zaptiehs.

Turning to the less important Articles, it appears that judicial inspectors have been appointed (Article 19), but have done little. Some improvement in prisons (Article 25) is reported from Sivas, but in other places want of money is alleged as an excuse for inactivity. Commissions for deciding titles to property (Article 29) have been instituted in most vilayets with a uniform absence of result. Commissions for preliminary judicial inquiry (Article 26) have been formed in some places, but the authorities seem in doubt as to their functions, and they have ended by performing none. Little has been done to form Nahiés (Article 7–10), Councils of Cazas and Sandjaks (Article 6), and Councils of Ancients (Article 17–18), and it is maintained with some plausibility that in the present disturbed condition of the country the introduction of a complex system of local government is impracticable.

As I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 960, of the 10th November, most of these reforms, excepting those referring to the Hamidié Cavalry and the gardes champêtres have been recently extended to all vilayets of the Empire in order that no special privileges might seem to be given to Armenians. Mr. Blunt in his despatch No. 113 has reported to your Lordship how they are executed in Macedonia.

In a word, we are confronted by an organized official conspiracy to thwart all attempts at improving the state of the Empire. The history of the introduction of reforms in the past year is one long record of pretence, evasion, counterfeit, and sham. The only change that has taken place in the last year is that whereas at the end of 1895 the Sultan wished to pretend to his Moslem subjects that he had made no concessions to the Christians, and therefore refused to publish the reforms, he now thinks that he has made his intention sufficiently plain to his own people, and endeavours to persuade the Powers that he has fulfilled his promises. The condition of the country remains much the same, and seems to indicate that reforms in the details of administration are useless unless accompanied by some more radical change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 361.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 1076.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1051 of the 15th instant respecting the condemnation of the Bishop of Bitlis, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that

I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, confirming his despatch which formed the inclosure of my despatch No. 916 of the 7th November.

A local Mussulman Notable, who was a member of the Tribunal that tried the Bishop, has informed Mr. Monahan confidentially that the account there given of the case is on the whole correct.

The Bishop refused to make any answer to the charges brought against him, and claimed to be tried at Constantinople. The letter in invisible ink, to which Mr. Monahan referred in his above-mentioned despatch, was not made a subject of charge against the Bishop.

The Mussulman Notable said that he himself, having heard the evidence, feigned sickness, and so avoided having to sign the Judgment, which he would otherwise have been forced to do, as the Government had let it be known that they desired a conviction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 365.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 1077.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gilbertson respecting the revolt of a Turkish regiment at Mondania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 365.

Mr. Gilbertson to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Broussa, December* 17, 1896.

I HAVE just been informed that a Turkish transport, having on board a regiment of troops returning to their homes from Yemen, has arrived at Mondania, and that they have revolted.

It appears that before embarking the soldiers had demanded their arrears, but has been put off by each receiving an order to be paid in Constantinople, to which port they were told the steamer was bound. On entering the sea of Marmora, however, the vessel, instead of proceeding direct to the capital, veered towards the Gulf of Mondania, and finally cast anchor in the roadstead of that town. The troops, on perceiving that they had been duped, clamoured to be taken to Constantinople as promised, not only to receive their wages, but that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan might see for himself the plight they were in. Their demand was met by an order from their Colonel to prepare to disembark. This so exasperated them, that they seized and bound both him and the captain of the steamer. Having thus become masters of the situation, they deputed a number of their comrades to communicate their ultimatum to the Kaïmakam of Mondania, which, I am told, was as follows:—

That they would not quit the ship or release the aforesaid officers unless they received proper clothing and their arrears paid, which amounted to 700,000 piastres.

That should their demands not be met within twenty-four hours, they would pillage the town, and that irrespective of nationality and religion.

The Kaïmakam, fearing that the troops, who were armed, would put their threat into execution, immediately wired to the Governor-General what had happened. Although the telegram reached Zihni Pasha at an advanced hour of the night, his Excellency instantly summoned to his residence the Military Governor, Defterdar, and Sulioman Bay, Chief of the Evkaf. They decided to forward all the uniforms that were in the military depôt, and also all the underclothing that existed in the hospital. These, together with a sum of 1,500*l.*, were dispatched to Mondania. The Military Governor likewise left for that port to superintend the distribution of the

clothing and money amongst the soldiers. By these means the authorities thought to appease the troops; but although they accepted the clothes, they insisted upon being paid in full. Under these circumstances, the Vali was compelled to withdraw from the Broussa Agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank the sum of 500,000 piastres, amount which was expeditiously sent to Mondania this morning. This amount had been paid into the bank by the local authorities for transmission to Constantinople. The authorities, having no further cash at their disposal, sent instructions to the Kaïmakam of Mondania to advance the balance—500,000 piastres—due to the soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN GILBERTSON.

No. 366.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1078.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the case of the Archimandrite Gorine Vartabed, Priory of the Monastery of Kizil Vank. I am causing inquiries to be made whether the prisoner will be released under the general amnesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December 11, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the case of the Archimandrite Gorine Vartabed, Prior of the Monastery of Kizil Vank (Garmir Vank), near Erzeroum, who was committed for trial on a charge of sedition on the 12th ultimo by the "Chambre des Mises en Accusation" of the Erzeroum Court of Appeal.

This ecclesiastic has for some time been regarded with suspicion by the authorities as a friend of the ex-Archbishop Ghervonth Shishmanian, now in exile at Jerusalem, and was arrested more than two months ago at his monastery, when certain papers were seized in the school-room of the monastery. A true Bill was found against him under section 1 of the Annex to the 66th Article of the Criminal Code for "having seditious documents in his possession for the purpose of circulation." He has now petitioned the Ministry of Justice to quash the indictment against him, briefly on the following grounds:—

1. That the two songs in his handwriting, the possession of which he admits, are not seditious, and that in any case there is no evidence of any intention on his part to "circulate" them or other documents.

2. That the other papers found in the school building, if seditious, were not in his possession, the school having been placed beyond his control by a decision of the Religious and Lay Council of Erzeroum, and having been closed for a year previous to the seizure. If seditious papers written by the former teachers of the school have been found there, he cannot therefore be held accountable for them. On these grounds, and in consideration of his ill-health and infirmities, he prays for the quashing of the indictment, and for his release from prison.

In the indictment it is admitted that two of the persons connected with the case, Gabriel Effendi and Melek Shah, whose names appear in the alleged seditious documents, are dead, and that two others, the teachers Serope and Sarkis, cannot be found; also that no proofs of guilt could be found against the monastery servant Sarkis and three remaining pupils of the school, who were arrested and examined, the latter being children of tender age. I may add that their age did not prevent them from being imprisoned for fourteen days, during which time they are said to have been cruelly beaten and ill-used to extort confessions incriminating the Vartabed.

If the Petition is brought to trial, it will apparently be on the strength of the documentary evidence only. It is difficult to give any really dangerous political significance to the songs, which are of a religious tendency, while the Vartabed's responsibility for the other documents, the precise nature of which I am not acquainted with, is restricted to their having been found within the precincts of the monastery over which he presided. However, under present circumstances, the weakness of the case against him will very likely not avail to secure his acquittal by an Erzeroum Court, and if the Central Government are concerned to put an end to such miscarriages of justice, it is highly desirable that the Ministry of Justice should cause this indictment to be quashed, and direct the provincial Magistrates to refrain from instituting similar proceedings in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 367.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1079.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 829 of the 12th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the case of the alleged Armenian rebels at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 367.

Acting Consul Richards to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Angora, December 18, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96 of the 7th October reporting the arrest at Yuzgat of a certain Avedis Machsoumian of Denek Maden, and four other Armenians of Yuzgat whom he had persuaded, so it is alleged, to join him in the attempt to raise a troop of Horse for illegal and revolutionary purposes, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the "Chambre de la Mise en Accusation" here has found a true Bill against those five men as well as against four others, of whose alleged complicity in the plot I was previously unaware, so that they will all be tried very shortly at Yuzgat by the Criminal Court of First Instance. The names of the four men referred to are: Roupen Saoulian and Mugurditch Bakhtiarian of Denek Maden, and Avedis Hagi Casparian and Harotiun Kelekian of Yuzgat.

I shall not fail to inform your Excellency of the result of the trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 368.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1080.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 999 of the 2nd December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kharput respecting the progress made with the execution of the reforms in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 61.)

Sir, *Kharput, December* 3, 1896.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 31st ultimo having reference to the progress made in the execution of reforms in the six vilayets, I have the honour duly to report what has been done so far in the matter by the authorities of this vilayet.

Articles 2, 3, 4.—Christian Mudvins to the Kaïmakams of Arabkir and of the Charsanjak have now been appointed and dispatched to their posts. Their names are: Kaspar Effendi Reshishian (to Arabkir) and Boghos Effendi Tutoyan. They are said to have accepted their appointments with the greatest reluctance.

Article 5.—The following nominations of Christians have been made to posts in the administration of this province; a second Secretary to the Agricultural Bank and cashiers to the Cazas of Keban Maden, Eghin, Kiahta, and Behesni; nine police and forty-seven gendarmes; and Christian members have been appointed to the Administrative Councils and Law Courts for the current year.

Articles 7–16.—Nahiés have been mapped out, the Vali informs me, for the Sandjaks of Dersim and Kharput-Mezreh. A scheme for the Malatia Sandjak is also being drawn up by the Mutessarif, and will shortly be completed. Vizirial orders, however, were lately received to the effect that villages situated within three hours' distance from the chief town of the vilayet, sandjak, or caza should form an exception to the general rule, and should remain under the jurisdiction of the town in question. The maps are consequently now being revised in the sense of the orders referred to.

Articles 17–18.—The election of Mukhtars and the formation of Councils of Ancients have commenced; but some time will elapse, the Vali tells me, before these functionaries will be in a position to fulfil their judicial duties.

Article 19.—As reported in my despatch No. 54 of the 10th ultimo, the Judicial Inspectors have arrived at Kharput and have taken up office.

Articles 20–21.—The police force has now been reorganized in conformity with the scheme elaborated by Shakir Pasha during his stay here, and reported in my despatch No. 48 of the 5th October last. Christians have been enrolled to their full number of nine. Instructions have been received from the Porte that the appropriation for the payment of salary to the augmented police staff shall be derived from the revenue of the vilayet.

Articles 22–23.—Forty-seven Christians have been enrolled, Raouf Bey states, in the gendarmerie. Christians, as a rule, seem unwilling to volunteer for this service, but it is nevertheless hoped that the reorganization may be effected before very long.

The gendarmerie force in this province is to consist as follows: a flying squadron of 371 men, comprising 211 cavalry and 160 foot; a squadron of 300 men, viz., 140 cavalry and 160 foot, for service in the Sandjak of Kharput; the same numerical force for the Malatia Sandjak, and in the Dersim there will be a squadron composed of 71 cavalry and 240 infantry. The whole force will thus number 1,282 men, of whom 1,082 are to be Mussulmans, 172 Armenians, and twenty-eight persons belonging to different non-Mussulman communities in proportion to the importance of each of the latter.

Article 25.—The Judicial Inspectors have inspected, they tell me, the local prison and made their report, and the strictest attention is paid, the Vali states, to the sanitary arrangements and health of the prisoners.

Article 26.—Committees of Preliminary Inquiry have been formed in each sandjak, composed of a President and two members, one of whom is in each case a Christian. These Committees have commenced their functions.

Article 27.—There are no Hamidieh troops, it appears, in this vilayet.

Article 28.—The only nomads in Maamuret-ul-Aziz are, Raouf Bey informs me, to be found in the Malatia Sandjak, of which the Sub-Governor has taken measures for the execution of this Article.

Article 29.—These Commissions have been organized both at Kharput and in the two other sandjaks; but the necessary instructions with regard to their functions have not yet been received from the Archive Department, and it is uncertain whether the decisions of the Commissions may or may not be reversed by the Law Courts, or

whether judgment given by the latter shall be subject to reversion by the Commissions.

Article 30.—Eighty-eight collectors, comprising three chief collectors, nineteen sub-collectors, and fifty mounted collectors, together with sixteen unmounted, have been nominated, and are to enter upon their functions very shortly. Their salary is to be paid from the provincial revenue.

Article 31.—The Regulations with regard to the adjudication of the tithes, village by village, have been carried out excepting so far as certain Kurdish villages in the Dersim are concerned, which belong, it appears, to tribes upon whom the Regulations in question cannot be enforced.

In conclusion, I would venture to submit the following remarks upon the actual financial situation of the vilayet in the relation it may hold to the execution of the reforms.

I am assured by a prominent civil functionary at Mezreh that the provincial Budget for this year shows, in comparison with that of preceding years, a deficit of £T. 91,000.

The salary of a large number of the minor officials is many months in arrears, as well as the pay of the zaptiehs and gendarmes. The Redifs who have recently been disbanded, have presented Petitions—in one or two instances even in my presence—for payment of the soldo due to them during the period of their service; but in nearly every case, as far as I can learn, without success. The pay of the augmented and reorganized police and gendarmerie forces, the salary of the Judicial Inspectors, the newly-appointed Mudvins, the eighty-eight Tahsil-Dars, of the gardes champêtres when enrolled, and, in fact, of all the additional functionaries appointed under the scheme of reforms, as well as the cost of the erection of "Maisons d'Arrêt," will be drawn from the proceeds of the vilayet, so that the innovations in question cannot but prove an additional burden to the Christian tax-payers, for whose benefit they were originally devised.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 369.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1081.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to state that the reports from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Erzeroum, Kharput, Sivas, Diarbekir, Van, and Bitlis, transmitted by this messenger on the progress made in the execution of the reforms in their respective vilayets, were written in reply to a Circular despatch which I addressed to those officers on the 31st October, of which a copy is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 369.

Circular addressed by Sir P. Currie to Her Majesty's Consular Officers at Erzeroum, Kharput, Sivas, Diarbekir, Van, and Bitlis.

Sir, *Therapia, October* 31, 1896.

I AM informed by the Sublime Porte that strict orders have been sent by telegraph to the Governors-General of the six provinces for which reforms were granted last October, instructing them, in the most categorical manner, to attend without loss of time to the complete execution of the reforms.

I inclose copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block of the statement made to him on the subject by Izzet Bey, and also a list communicated to me by the Sultan's orders, showing in detail, Article by Article, what has been done towards executing the reforms, and I have to request you to report to me whether these provisions have actually been carried out on the spot.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 369.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

IZZET BEY said the reforms were now all completed. During the last five days numbers of telegrams had been sent to the provinces insisting that every reform should be executed without further delay. He read to me the telegrams, which were most categorical, *e.g.*, with regard to tax collectors; the telegram stated: "If you have not already done so, prevent the gendarmes from collecting taxes, and appoint the proper tax collectors; and inform me you have done so within forty-eight hours." Another telegram stated that His Majesty had learned there were persons in prison in the provinces whose trial had not taken place. The authorities were instructed to conclude the cases in fifteen days, within which period the prisoners were to be either condemned or acquitted, and any Judge who should not execute this order would be held responsible. The other telegrams were in the same sense; one said that this was not the moment to raise difficulties or objections, or for further correspondence, but the matter was to be settled within twenty-four hours.

Inclosure 3 in No. 369.

Vilayets of Sivas, Kharput, Diarbekir, Bitlis, Erzeroum, and Van.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1.—Muavins to Valis have been appointed.

Articles 2, 3, 4.—The Muavins of Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams, as well as the number and posts of Kaïmakams, have been fixed upon by the Government, and their titularies are in course of appointment.

Article 5.—The appointment of Christian officials in proportion to the population is being proceeded with; strict orders have been given that as vacancies occur Christians are to be appointed.

Article 6.—The old Regulations for the elections of Councils of Administration are being carried out.

Articles 7 to 16.—Nahiés have been formed in the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Diarbekir; in the other vilayets the formation and selection of nahiés is being proceeded with.

Articles 17, 18.—Instructions as to the judicial functions of Councils of Ancients in nahiés and villages are being drawn up.

Article 19.—Judicial Inspectors have been appointed.

Articles 20, 21.—The formation of the police has been completely carried out.

Articles 22, 23.—The formation of gendarmerie—the Vilayet of Van being included—is being proceeded with, and has been completed for Kharput. However, as in this vilayet, the Christians refuse to be enrolled, only twelve of them could be registered.

Article 24.—The appointment of gardes champêtres is dependent on the completion of the formation of nahiés.

Article 25.—Strict orders have been given that the Prison Regulations shall be completely carried out, and that the registers in which the Inspectors record their opinions, and which are necessary for the reform of prisons, so as to bring them into conformity with the laws of hygiene, shall be forwarded within eight days.

Article 26.—The Council of Inspection has been appointed in each vilayet.

Article 27.—The nomads and Kurds are accompanied by Imperial troops on their return from their summer pasturages.

Article 28.—Privates of the Hamidié cavalry have not carried their arms outside their periods of training, and have become subject to the general Tribunals.

Article 29.—Local Commissions have been named for the inspection of title-deeds to property; four officials from here are also in course of appointment.

Article 30.—The collection of taxes has been intrusted to the collectors appointed, that is to say, the tax collectors have been appointed.

Article 31.—The tithes are nowhere adjudicated *en bloc*, and Regulations as to forced labour for public works being exacted in money or in kind are strictly carried out. So also the sums set apart on the Public Instruction Budget for Christian schools have been raised by 35,000 to 40,000 piastres in each vilayet.

No. 370.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1083.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1896.*

AS your Lordship is aware, there has been much talk for some time past of the release of prisoners, and the grant of a more or less general amnesty.

On the 10th November the Sultan promised M. Cambon to discharge all those prisoners against whom there was no charge, and a number were set free in the provinces, as will be seen from the inclosed précis of the information contained in Consular Reports.

The amnesty was only issued the day before yesterday, after long negotiation between the Armenian Patriarchate and the Sultan.

I inclose translations of the address of the Patriarchate to the Sultan, and of the text of the amnesty.

Your Lordship will perceive that the terms of the amnesty are not exactly the same as those of the address. The latter proposes to make an exception of "instigators of sedition," but the Imperial Decree substitutes for this category "those who have been condemned to death."

It would appear that this designation includes eighty-two persons condemned by the ordinary Courts and by the special Tribunal instituted after the disorders in Constantinople, as well as about fifteen condemned by court-martial in different places.

The proposal of the Patriarch and Mixed Council to make themselves responsible for the loyalty of the released prisoners and to dissolve the Committees seems imprudent, as it is hard to see how they can fulfil what they have undertaken.

My Russian colleague informs me that, as soon as he returned to Constantinople, he received a message from the Sultan asking if he would approve of the grant of an amnesty on these conditions. He replied that he thought it would hardly be fair to exact such guarantees from the Patriarchate, and that he was in favour of an unconditional amnesty, from which, however, persons taken red-handed should be excluded.

His object in making this latter suggestion was, he said, to prevent the release of the 200 Mussulmans who, according to the Porte's note of the 9th September, were arrested for participation in the massacres, and were to be severely punished. These persons, however, are expressly included in the amnesty, and the Palace distorted his remarks into a statement that he was opposed to the measure altogether, and consequently delayed the issue of the Iradé for some time.

It is said that the Patriarchate estimates the number of Armenian prisoners in Anatolia at 9,000, but this is a far larger number than our Consular Reports would indicate.

I hear that prisoners were being sworn yesterday at the Patriarchate as a preliminary to release.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 370.

Statement as to Prisoners.

Bitlis.—Twenty Christian political prisoners released 10th November.

Sivas.—Five released.

Erzeroum.—168 in prison, of whom 43 were untried; 12 released 12th November.

Diarbekir.—Four prisoners who had been acquitted in Court, but reimprisoned administratively, have been released, 29th November.

Bitlis.—No political prisoners remain untried. Five who were imprisoned on charge of attempting to murder a spy have been released.

Inclosure 2 in No. 370.

Newspaper Extract.

THE Armenian Patriarch and the members of the Ecclesiastical and Lay Councils of the Patriarchate have presented the following address to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan:—

Revolutionary bodies organized by insane people abroad and in the interior who had allowed themselves to be misled by false and perfidious allegations committed crimes here and in the provinces. These persons called themselves the Armenian nation; but this nation has lived for some centuries in complete fidelity under the ægis of the Imperial Government, and has neither by words nor deeds assisted these madmen, whose acts have, on the contrary, always been condemned.

The above-mentioned revolutionists employed others, more ignorant and foolish than themselves, as their instruments, putting them forward to bear the brunt of the battle, and using them as shields for themselves. The revolutionists succeeded in winning them over by diabolical means. At present their families are in a state of utter destitution, and their pitiful plight must excite Imperial compassion. We come to supplicate your Majesty to extend towards the Armenians also that clemency with which you treat all your subjects, and to pardon those Armenians who are in prison, whether they are confined as a precautionary measure, or under sentence of a Court of Justice, for complicity in the recent disorders and events. We suggest the following conditions under which amnesty may be granted:—

1. Armenian prisoners shall swear that henceforward they will never do anything contrary to the dictates of a loyal and faithful spirit. They shall take this oath before the Patriarch if they are imprisoned in Constantinople, and before a vicar when they are confined in provincial gaols.

2. The Patriarchate and the Mixed Council shall guarantee, on behalf of the nation, that those set at liberty will keep the oath they swear on their release.

3. Those among the prisoners who are notorious agitators will be transported to localities designated by the Government, where they will be confined until they have given convincing proofs of their repentance.

4. The Committees will be dissolved.

The address continues by expressing the gratitude of the nation for the application of the charter of reforms granted to the six provinces.

The Council of Ministers having been ordered by His Imperial Majesty, on receipt of the above address, to examine the matter, resolved to present a Mazbata to His Majesty, showing that, inasmuch as the majority of the Armenians now in confinement are simple-minded men of the lower classes who have been led astray by the members of the Committees, and that the punishment inflicted upon an offender must be proportioned to his offence and harmful intention, and that, in the present case, the culprits were not aware of the criminal nature of the projects harboured by the organizers of the agitation, the Cabinet was of opinion that it would be in accordance with the spirit of justice and benevolence of the Sovereign for His Majesty to grant an amnesty to the Armenian prisoners, subject to the conditions proposed in the address of the Patriarch and Mixed Council. The amnesty shall be extended to the Mussulmans who were arrested for their compromising conduct during the disturbances, and who are imprisoned in the gaols of the capital and of the provinces.

The Sultan has issued an Iradé approving that which precedes, and ordering that the measures it provides be carried into effect.

Inclosure 3 in No. 370.

Memorandum by Mr. Blech.

THE following official communication appears in to-day's Turkish papers:—

A Petition has been presented to His Majesty by the Armenian Patriarch and the members of the Spiritual and Lay Councils, pointing out that whereas the Armenian nation did not participate in, and indeed viewed with aversion, the doings of certain diabolical revolutionaries. These latter did, however, succeed in deceiving many foolish persons, who are now deserving of the Imperial clemency. It is requested, therefore, that the Imperial pardon may be extended to all Armenians actually in prison upon

conviction or suspicion of participation in the disorders, upon the following conditions: they will take an oath (at Constantinople at the Patriarchate and in the provinces at the Metropolitan's residence) that they will not act disloyally to their Sovereign, such oath being subsequently confirmed in the name of the nation by the Patriarchate and Councils; and should there be amongst them any who have acted as instigators of sedition, these will, until they have mended their ways, be confined where the State may direct; further, the Committees are to be completely destroyed and dissolved. The Petition also expresses gratitude for the reforms executed in the six provinces. By Imperial Order, the matter was referred to the Council of Ministers, which, after consideration, came to the following decision, which has now received the Imperial sanction: while it is no doubt true that numbers of the Armenians actually in prison were led astray by Committee members, whose tools they became, it is right that the punishment of an offender should be proportioned to the intent with which he committed his offence. But as most of them were unaware of the evil designs of those who instigated them, it would be consonant with the Imperial clemency that they should receive mercy. They will therefore be sworn as described, and will remain under the guarantee of the Patriarchate and Councils, and also under the supervision of the police. Moreover, the Committees will be destroyed, and such as are under sentence of death will, until they have mended their ways, be confined in a fortress where the State may direct, and be employed in trades. Upon these conditions, the Imperial pardon will be granted to prisoners at the capital and in the provinces, and will be extended to all such prisoners suspected or condemned in respect of the recent disorders, whether Mussulman or non-Mussulman.

December 23, 1896.

No. 371.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 1086.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 24, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from the "Stamboul" giving a précis of an official communiqué respecting the condition of the Hauran, which is represented as satisfactory.

I propose to instruct Mr. Richards, who will shortly arrive at Constantinople on his way to Damascus, to devote particular attention to the affairs of this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 371.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of December 23, 1896.

LE DJEBEL DRUSE.—Il ressort d'un communiqué officiel que l'ordre et la tranquillité ont été rétablis au Hauran, où des troubles s'étaient produits. Le recensement de la population a été opéré, et les impôts auxquels les Druses doivent être assujettis, suivant les lois en vigueur, ont été établis. Les mesures propres à empêcher désormais le renouvellement de troubles de la part des Druses ayant été prises, par décision du Conseil des Ministres, sanctionné par Iradé Impérial, les Rédifs qui avaient été envoyés au Hauran seront licenciés et renvoyés à leurs foyers.

Suivant les avis reçus de Beyrouth, les Cheiks Druses, au nombre de 195, auxquels est due l'organisation des troubles au Hauran, ont été arrêtés et expédiés à Beyrouth, d'où ils seront dirigés sur les localités qui seront désignées comme lieu d'exil.

D'autre part, la Commission de Réformes envoyée au Hauran s'occupe, de concert avec le Maréchal Abdoullah Pacha, de la mise en application des mesures et des réformes décidées.

Comme nous l'annonçons plus haut, le recensement de la population s'effectuant, les autorités militaires ont pu cette année opérer des enrôlements parmi les Druses. Les troupes Druses seront versées dans différents corps d'armée.

Des corps de garde ont été établis sur plusieurs points de chaque caza. Des communes sont en train d'être créées, et la loi sur le tapou est mise en vigueur.

No. 372.

Mr. Milbanke to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 413. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, December 24, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that during my interview with Count Goluchowski, his Excellency was good enough to read to me the telegraphic report he had received from Baron Calice upon the second meeting of the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

In regard to M. de Nélidow's proposal that the Regulations of the International Commission of 1880 should be applied to the European provinces of Turkey, he said that Baron Calice, who was on the spot, would be far better able to judge as to their utility than he himself could do, but he was inclined to agree with his Excellency's views, which had apparently been supported by Sir Philip Currie, to the effect that proposals of this kind should not be discussed to the exclusion of matters of far more pressing importance, and that the discussions of the Ambassadors should not be limited to one subject, but should include the general measures which might be found necessary to improve the existing situation.

The proceedings of the Russian Ambassador, however, only showed too clearly the absence of any real basis for the present Ambassadorial Conferences, and his Excellency gave me clearly to understand that he had no confidence in the vague deliberations that were now going on, and which were but a mere repetition of what we had seen for many months past.

What was wanted was some distinct proposal defining the points which were to be discussed. He himself had so often taken the initiative, which had met with but qualified success, that his attitude now was merely one of observation, and he was waiting to see what would be done, but he had been under the impression, from the Circular of the 20th October, that your Lordship would formulate some definite propositions.

From M. de Nélidow, too, he had been unable to obtain any real information as to what was intended, and on my alluding to the instructions of the Russian Ambassador, he replied that they were merely founded upon "des principes généraux," and were wanting in distinctness. I then asked his Excellency whether he purposed sending any further instructions to Baron Calice, to which he replied that he saw no object in doing so, as there were no definite proposals before him on which he could base them.

Count Goluchowski appeared, in short, to be altogether discouraged at the prospect as matters stand at present, and he did not conceal from me that he felt that but little was to be expected from the present conferences of the Ambassadors unless there were some definite programme to form the subject of their discussions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH MILBANKE.

No. 373.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 415. Secret.)

My Lord, *Paris, December 27, 1896.*

M. HANOTAUX received the foreign Representatives yesterday, as he intends to absent himself from Paris this week.

I found that he had received from M. Cambon telegrams containing the same information as that forwarded to your Lordship by Sir P. Currie, and communicated to me in your telegrams Nos. 167 to 171.

I asked him what was the exact intention of M. Cambon in proposing, as stated in Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 497, that the next meeting of the Ambassadors should have a more formal character, and he replied that the expression meant simply that the discussions should take a really business-like character, and not continue of a desultory tenor ("Qu'on ne dise pas des paroles en l'air").

His Excellency further remarked that he was quite of the opinion of the Ambassadors as to the expediency of keeping everything connected with these discussions as secret as possible. The Turks would do all in their power to find out what is passing, with the hope of frustrating by publicity the progress of the negotiations.

M. Hanotaux seemed also to approve the decision come to by the Ambassadors, upon Sir P. Currie's suggestion, to put an end to the irregularity of communications passing directly between the Palace and the Embassies without the intermediary of the Porte.

Beyond these observations, M. Hanotaux made no comment upon the situation at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 374.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 28.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ce qui suit.

L'Ambassade Impériale avait, par ses récentes communications, tenu au courant le Foreign Office des réformes exécutées par le Gouvernement Impérial dans les vilayets d'Anatolie, telles que la nomination des Chrétiens dans l'administration, la justice, la gendarmerie, et la police; l'organisation des communes; l'amélioration des prisons; secours accordés à ceux qui ont souffert des troubles; réparation aux frais du Trésor des édifices religieux endommagés et punition des employés de police prévenus de n'avoir pas rempli fidèlement leurs devoirs pendant les dits troubles.

Le Gouvernement Impérial tout en surveillant les réformes déjà appliquées n'en continue pas moins de prendre d'autres mesures bienfaisantes.

Ainsi, une récente Proclamation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ordonne que les condamnations à mort prononcées contre les individus impliqués dans les derniers troubles fussent commuées à la peine de la détention dans une enceinte fortifiée, où, à titre de mesure correctionnelle, les condamnés seront occupés à différents métiers. Cette même Proclamation accorde le pardon à tous les autres, condamnés à des peines moindres, ainsi qu'à tous ceux qui étaient détenus comme accusés ou prévenus.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, qui a toujours eu à cœur la formation d'un corps d'employés administratifs vraiment digne de leur mission, vient d'instituer dans ce but une Commission de Contrôle dont les membres, choisis parmi les plus hauts dignitaires de la hiérarchie administrative de l'Empire, devront, avant d'entrer en fonction, prêter serment solennellement en présence de Sa Majesté Impériale assisté de quelques-uns de ses Ministres. Cette Commission aura pour attributions de prendre les mesures propres à assurer le choix convenable des employés de cet ordre et de veiller à ce que ceux-ci remplissent scrupuleusement leurs devoirs.

Dans une autre direction on s'est occupé du Budget des dépenses et des recettes; celui de l'année prochaine a été établi de manière à présenter un excédent auquel est venu s'ajouter un don de £ T. 70,000 environ que Sa Majesté Impériale a mis généreusement à la disposition du Trésor Public. L'essentiel était d'assurer la fidèle et exacte exécution des dispositions budgétaires. Il y a été pourvu par la nomination à la présidence de la Cour des Comptes, naturellement chargée de ces attributions, de son Excellence Tewfik Pacha, ancien Ministre des Travaux Publics, si connu par sa compétence en cette matière. Pour l'exercice de ses importantes fonctions une latitude complète a été laissée à son Excellence et la Sublime Porte a reçu l'ordre catégorique de lui prêter toute son assistance.

Le retour de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans tout l'Empire dispensant de la nécessité de retenir sous les drapeaux un nombre de soldats supérieur à l'effectif normal, tel qu'il résulte de l'organisation de l'armée et des besoins de l'instruction militaire, un Iradé Impérial vient prescrire le retour au pied de paix. En conséquence les soldats de 150 bataillons de réserve ont été déjà renvoyés dans leurs foyers et on est en voie de compléter le licenciement ordonné, à moins que les besoins de nouvelles convocations ne se fassent sentir.

Il revient pourtant à la Sublime Porte qu'on persisterait dans certaines parties de l'Europe à ne pas vouloir se persuader l'exécution intégrale des réformes en question. Le Gouvernement Impérial ayant la conviction d'avoir rempli entièrement ses promesses, est prêt à fournir les explications nécessaires propres à éclairer les points sur lesquels on aurait formulé de doutes.

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,
le 27 Décembre, 1896.

No. 375.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December 26, 1896, 6·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 497, Confidential, from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

In connection with M. Cambon's suggestion that the meetings of the Ambassadors at Constantinople should in future be more formal, M. Hanotaux says that it is certainly to be desired that they should not be desultory in their character, but really businesslike.

As the Turkish Government attempt by every means to learn what goes on in their meetings, hoping thus to be able to render the discussions of no avail, his Excellency considers it most important that everything that takes place should be kept absolutely secret.

No. 376.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 406.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 29, 1896.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1062 of the 17th instant relative to the massacre at Eghin.

I approve the terms of the *pro-memorid* which you have addressed to the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 377.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 30, 1896.*

AS I have been hitherto unable to see Count Goluchowski, I requested Mr. Milbanke to call upon him to-day. Although his Excellency had no special information from Constantinople, Mr. Milbanke found him still strongly of opinion that it is necessary to concert some means of enforcing the decisions of the Ambassadors in case of need before submitting such proposals to the Sultan.

Count Goluchowski appears still to be sceptical as to the conferences having any good result, unless some agreement on that point is arrived at. His Excellency leaves Vienna this afternoon for a few days; I hope, however, to see him at latest on Monday.

No. 378.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 507. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 30, 1896.*

THE Ambassadors, who held another meeting yesterday, all seemed ready to seriously entertain the question of reforms. Before reporting details, I propose to wait until the various suggestions have taken a more definite form. We discussed remedies for the existing abuses, of which a list had been drawn up as mentioned in my telegram No. 501.

On account of the new year, no further meeting will be held until Saturday.

No. 379.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Baron de Courcel.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, December 30, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23rd instant, in which your Excellency is good enough to furnish me with a summary of the instructions which have been sent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the reforms to be proposed by the Powers for the improvement of the administration of the Ottoman Empire.

I have to thank your Excellency for this communication, and I have the honour to inform you that the instructions sent to M. Cambon appear to be entirely in harmony with the proposals made in my Circular despatch of the 20th October last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.